2

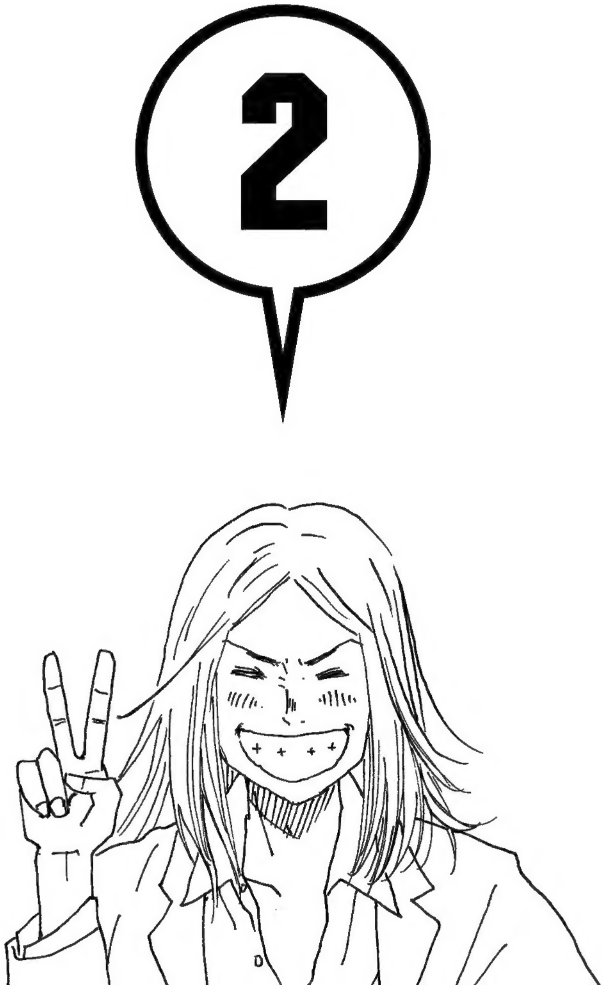
DAYS

TSUYOSHI YASUDA

DAYS

TSUYOSHI
YASUDA

2



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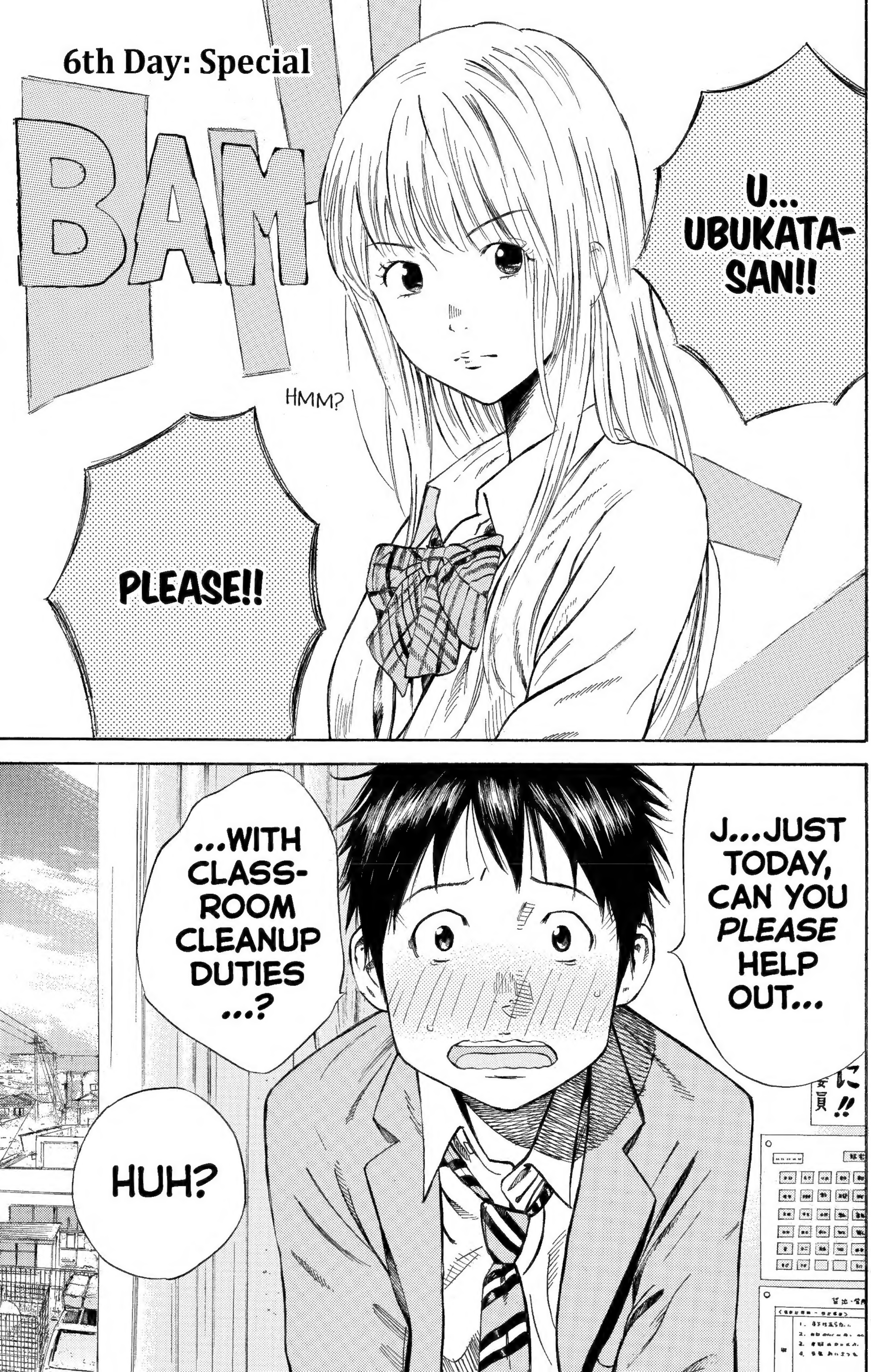
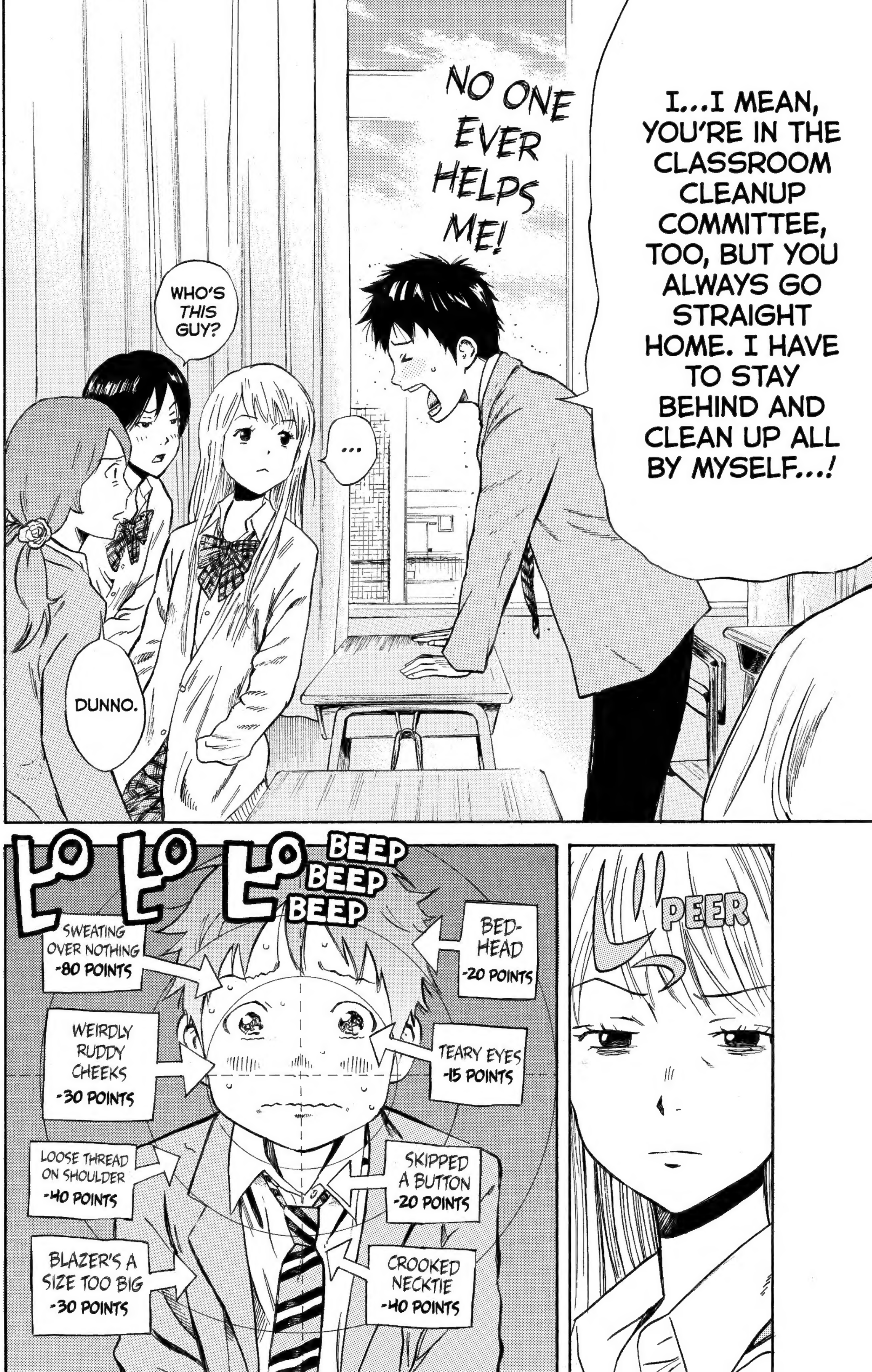
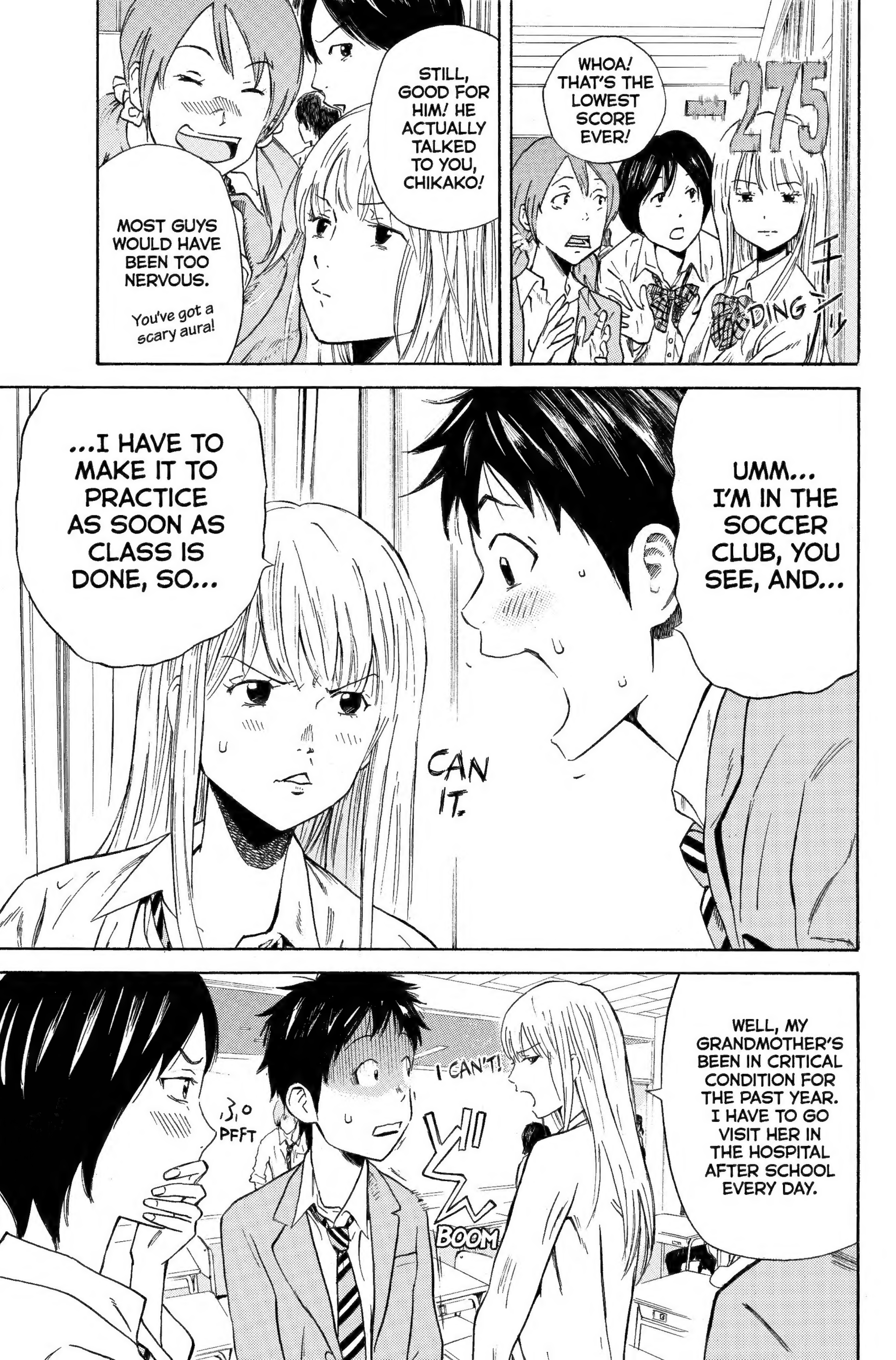
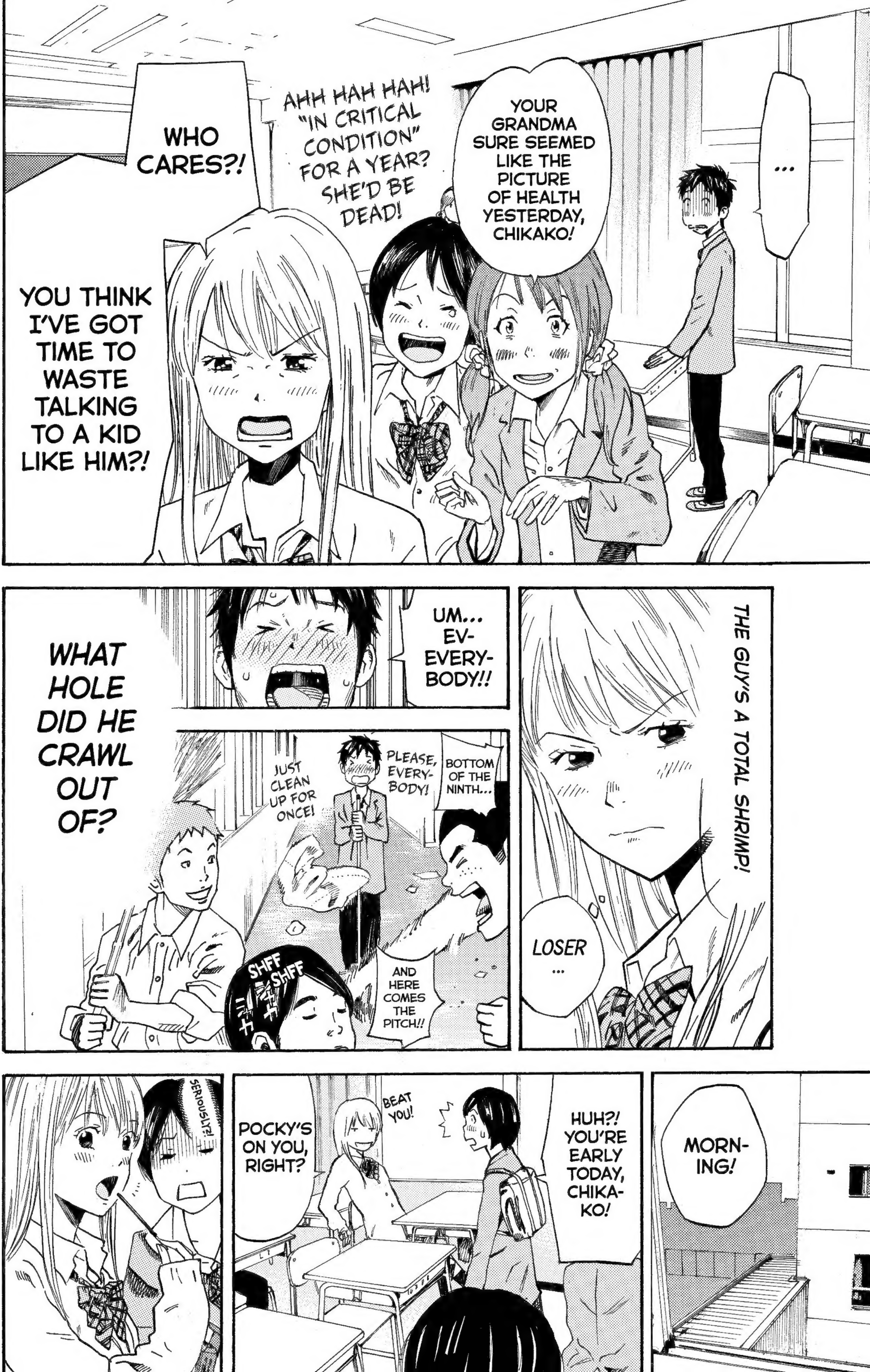
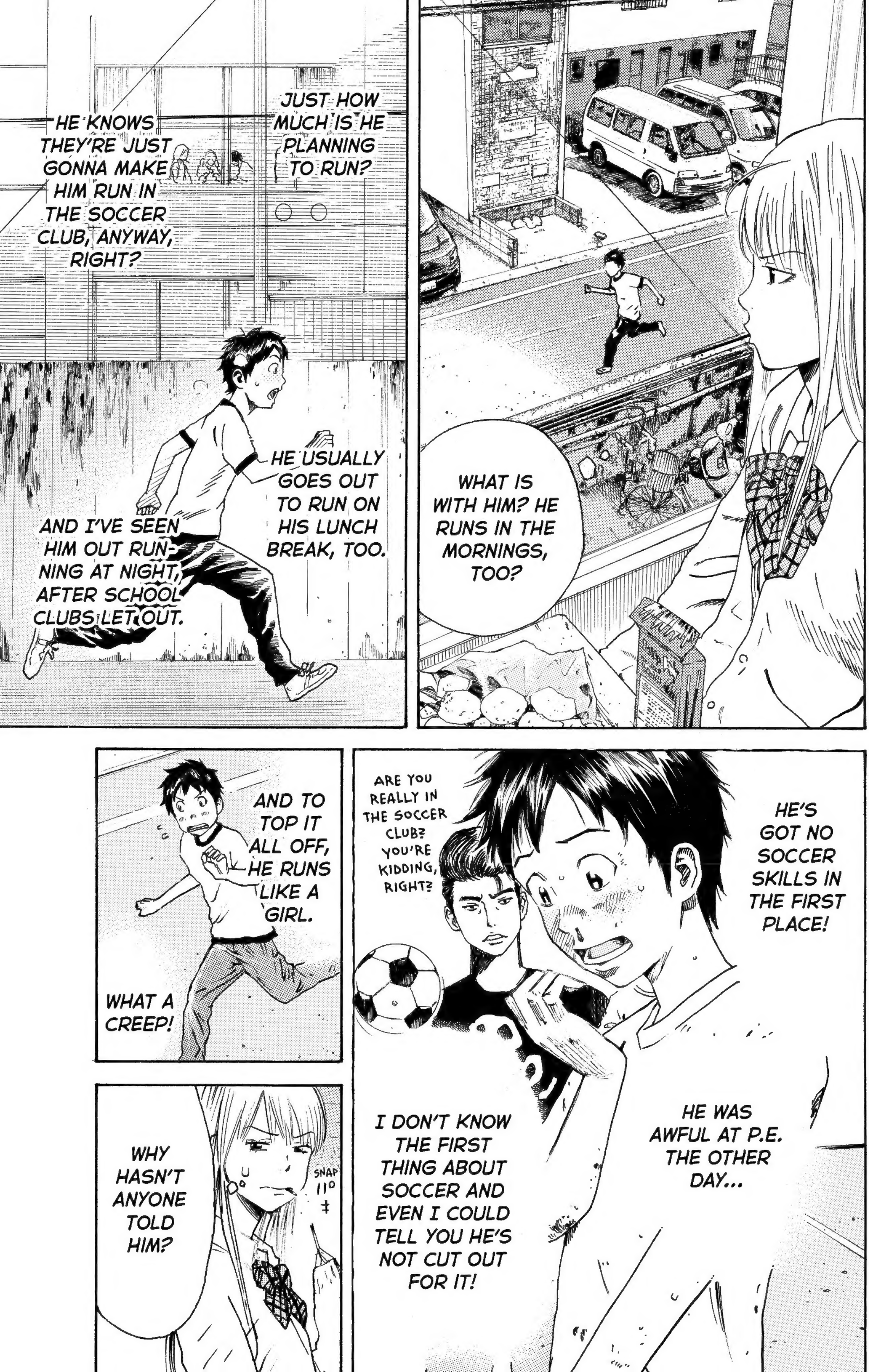
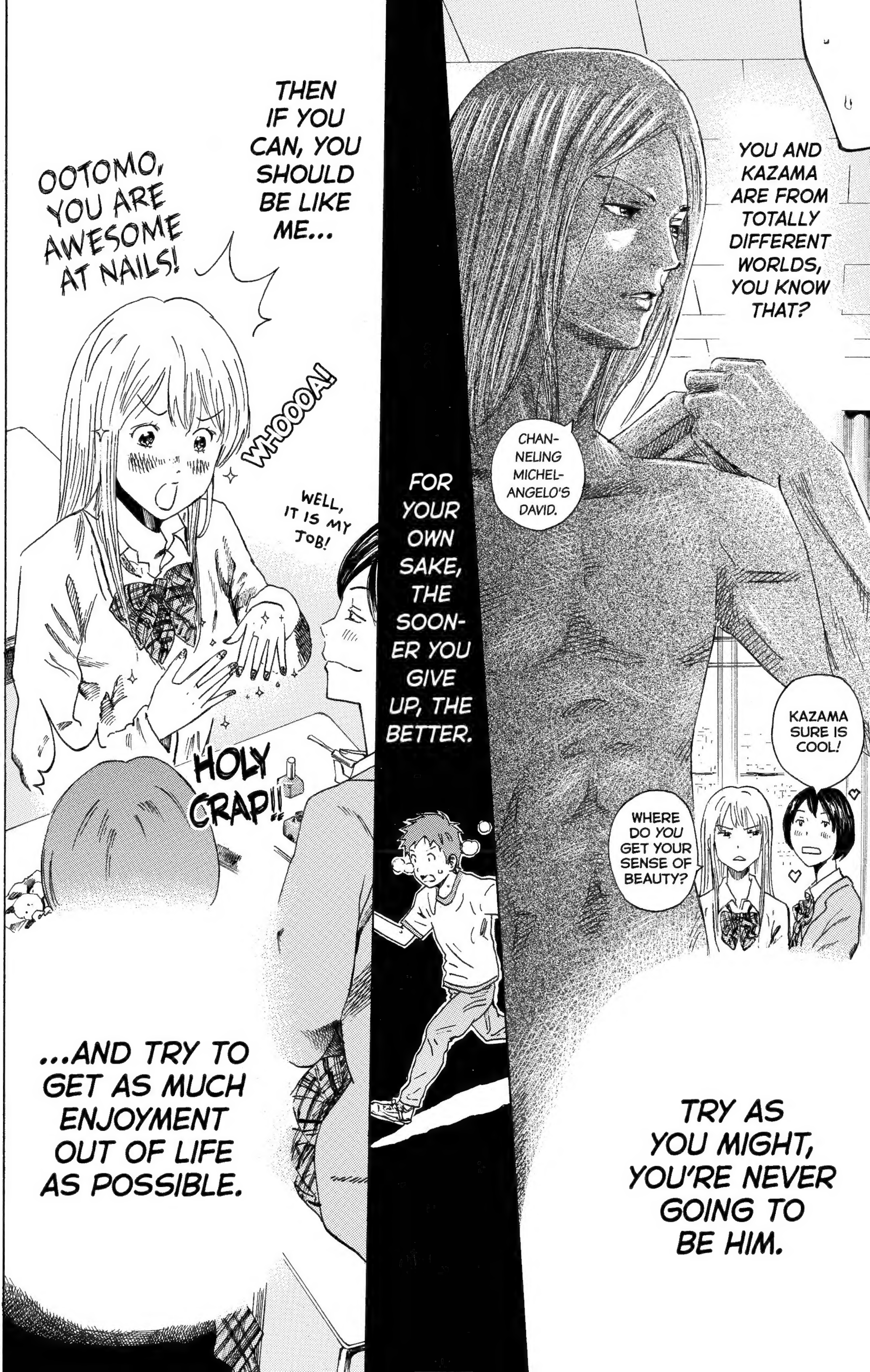

U... UBUKATA-SAN!!
BAM
HMM?
PLEASE!!
J...JUST TODAY, CAN YOU *PLEASE* HELP OUT...
...WITH CLASSROOM CLEANUP DUTIES...?
HUH?

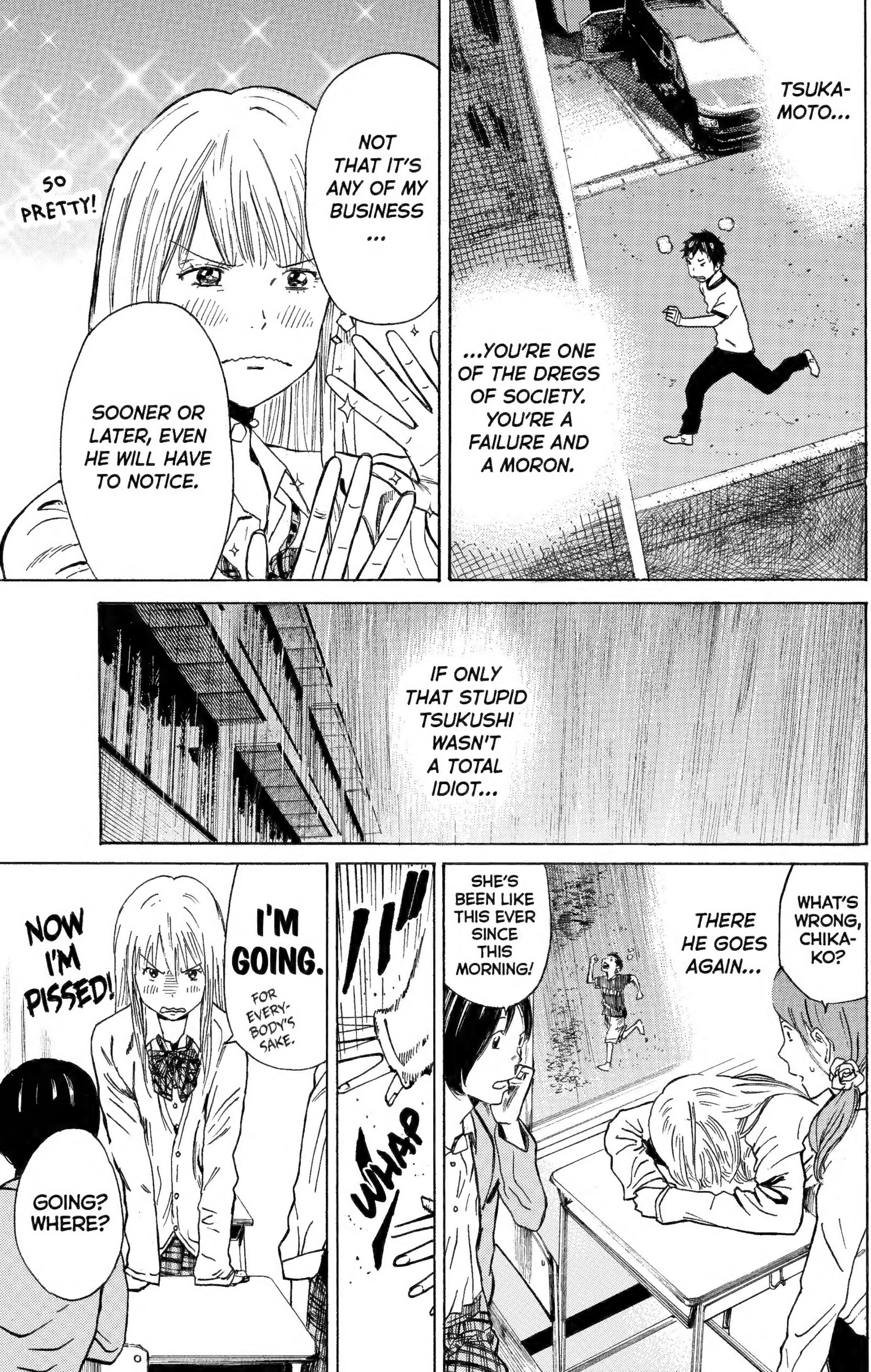

I...I MEAN, YOU'RE IN THE CLASSROOM CLEANUP COMMITTEE, TOO, BUT YOU ALWAYS GO STRAIGHT HOME. I HAVE TO STAY BEHIND AND CLEAN UP ALL BY MYSELF...!
NO ONE EVER HELPS ME!
...
WHO'S THIS GUY?
DUNNO.
PEER
ピピピ
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BED-HEAD -20 POINTS
SWEATING OVER NOTHING -80 POINTS
TEARY EYES -15 POINTS
WEIRDLY RUDDY CHEEKS -30 POINTS
SKIPPED A BUTTON -20 POINTS
LOOSE THREAD ON SHOULDER -40 POINTS
CROOKED NECKTIE -40 POINTS
BLAZER'S A SIZE TOO BIG -30 POINTS

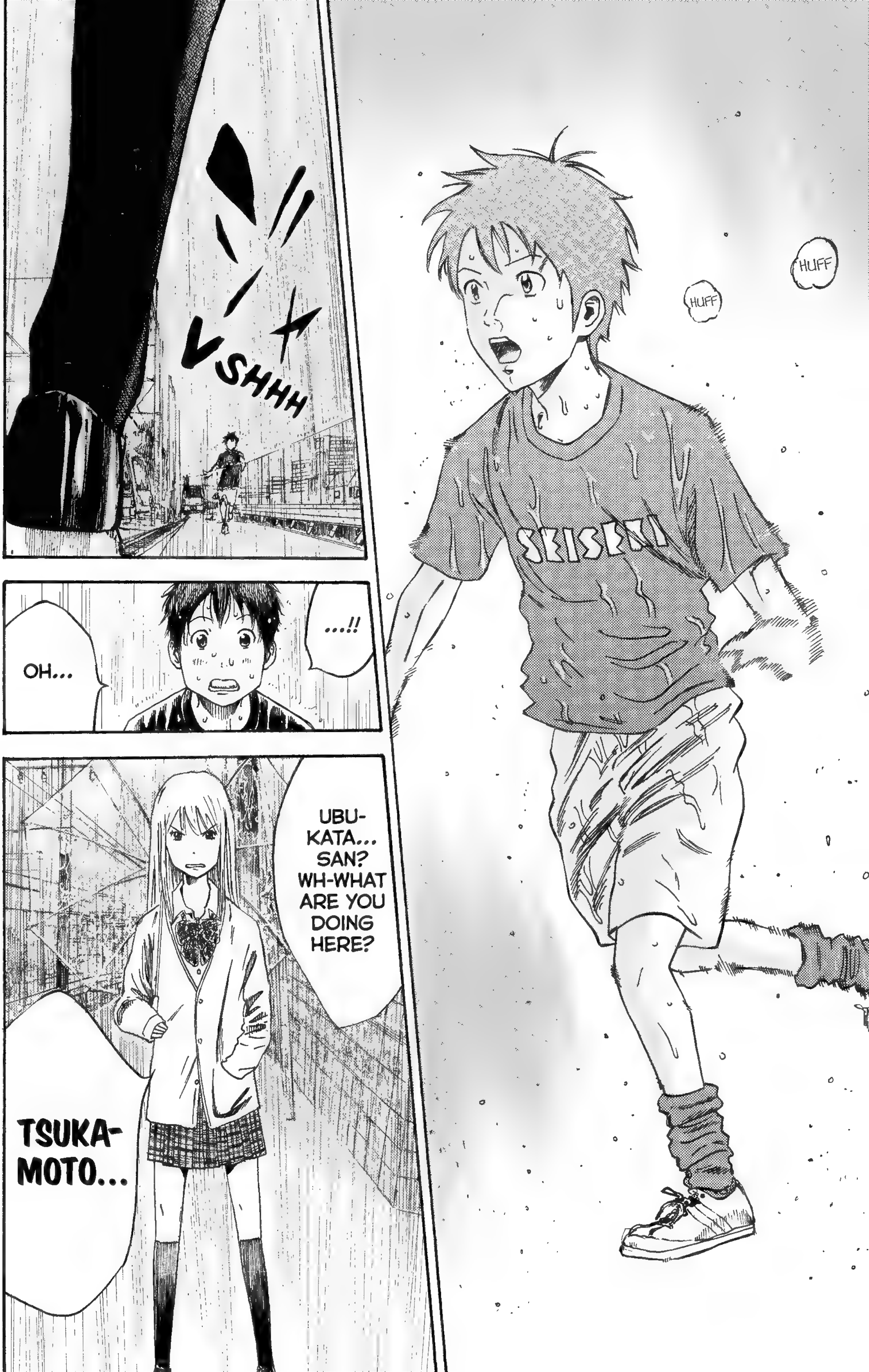

275
WHOA! THAT'S THE LOWEST SCORE EVER!
DING
STILL, GOOD FOR HIM! HE ACTUALLY TALKED TO YOU, CHIKAKO!
MOST GUYS WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO NERVOUS.
You've got a scary aura!
UMM... I'M IN THE SOCCER CLUB, YOU SEE, AND...
...I HAVE TO MAKE IT TO PRACTICE AS SOON AS CLASS IS DONE, SO...
CAN IT.
WELL, MY GRANDMOTHER'S BEEN IN CRITICAL CONDITION FOR THE PAST YEAR. I HAVE TO GO VISIT HER IN THE HOSPITAL AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY.
I CAN'T!
BOOM
PFFT

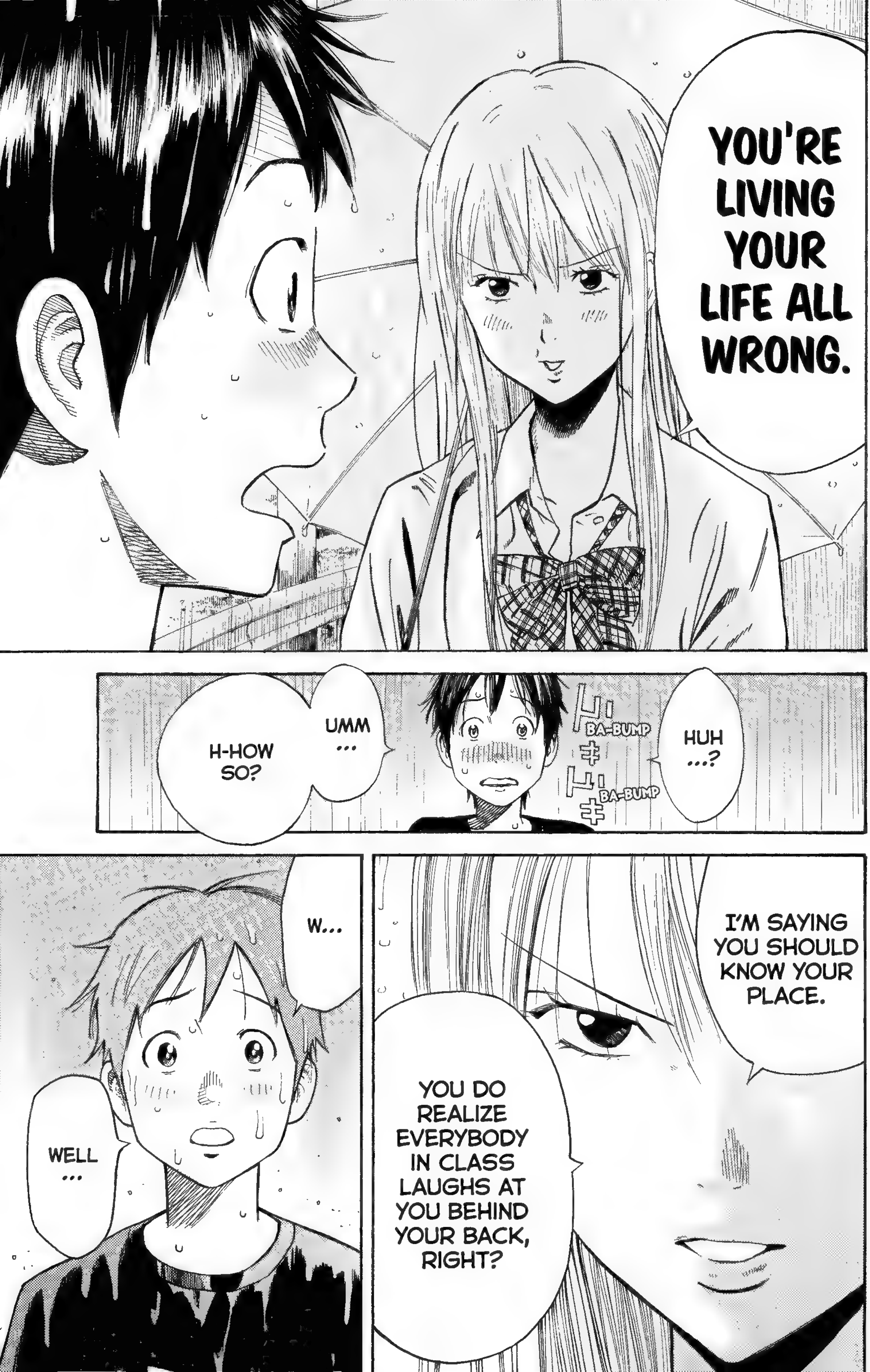

...
YOUR GRANDMA SURE SEEMED LIKE THE PICTURE OF HEALTH YESTERDAY, CHIKAKO!
AHH HAH HAH! "IN CRITICAL CONDITION" FOR A YEAR? SHE'D BE DEAD!
WHO CARES?!
YOU THINK I'VE GOT TIME TO WASTE TALKING TO A KID LIKE HIM?!
THE GUY'S A TOTAL SHRIMP!
LOSER ...
UM... EV- EVERYBODY!!
WHAT HOLE DID HE CRAWL OUT OF?
BOTTOM OF THE NINTH...
PLEASE, EVERYBODY!
JUST CLEAN UP FOR ONCE!
SHFF SHFF
AND HERE COMES THE PITCH!!
MORNING!
HUH?! YOU'RE EARLY TODAY, CHIKAKO!
BEAT YOU!
POCKY'S ON YOU, RIGHT?
SERIOUSLY?!

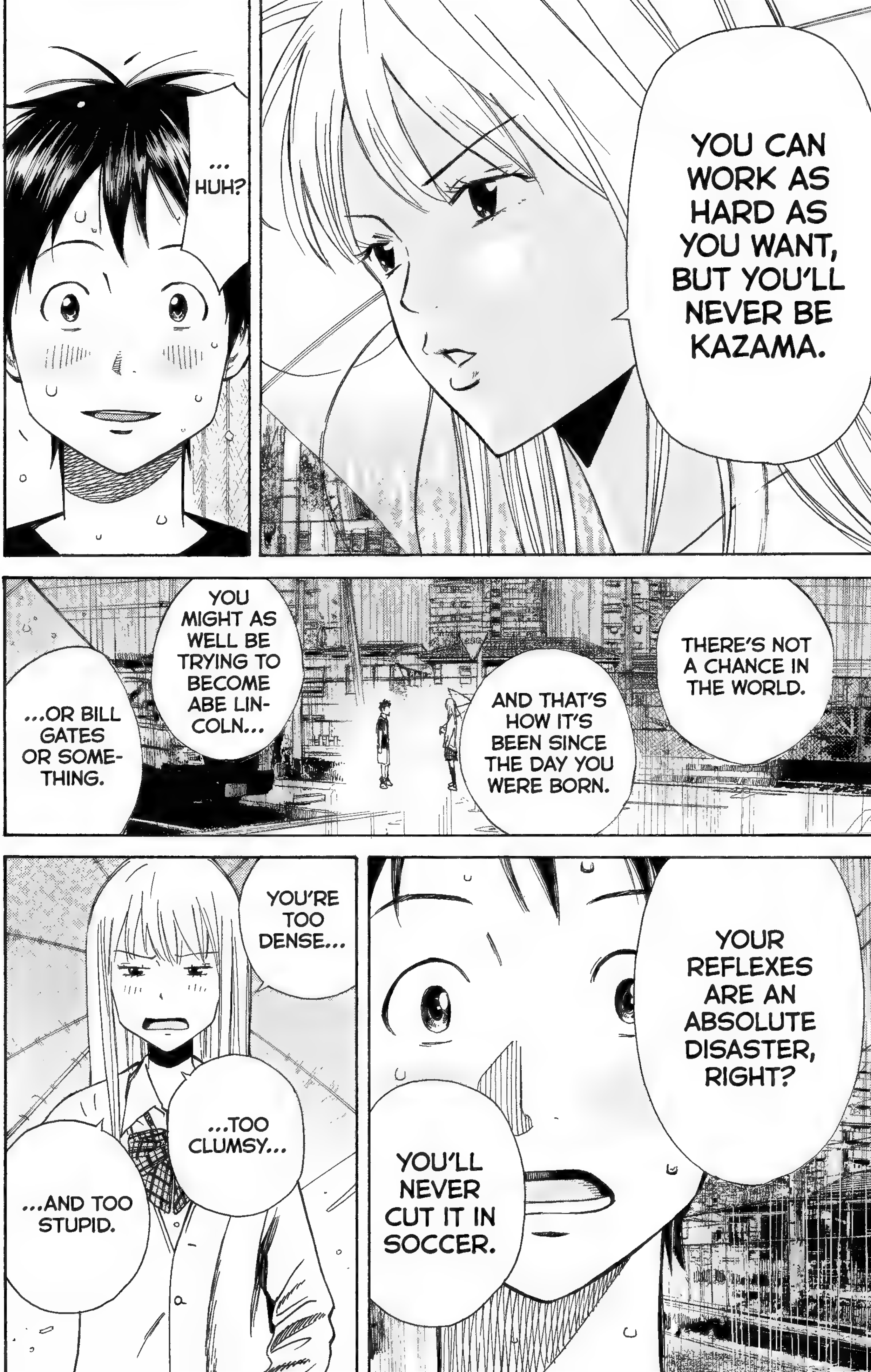

WHAT IS WITH HIM? HE RUNS IN THE MORNINGS, TOO?
JUST HOW MUCH IS HE PLANNING TO RUN?
HE KNOWS THEY'RE JUST GONNA MAKE HIM RUN IN THE SOCCER CLUB, ANYWAY, RIGHT?
HE USUALLY GOES OUT TO RUN ON HIS LUNCH BREAK, TOO.
AND I'VE SEEN HIM OUT RUNNING AT NIGHT, AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS LET OUT.
HE'S GOT NO SOCCER SKILLS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
ARE YOU REALLY IN THE SOCCER CLUB? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
HE WAS AWFUL AT P.E. THE OTHER DAY...
I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT SOCCER AND EVEN I COULD TELL YOU HE'S NOT CUT OUT FOR IT!
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, HE RUNS LIKE A GIRL.
WHAT A CREEP!
SNAP
WHY HASN'T ANYONE TOLD HIM?

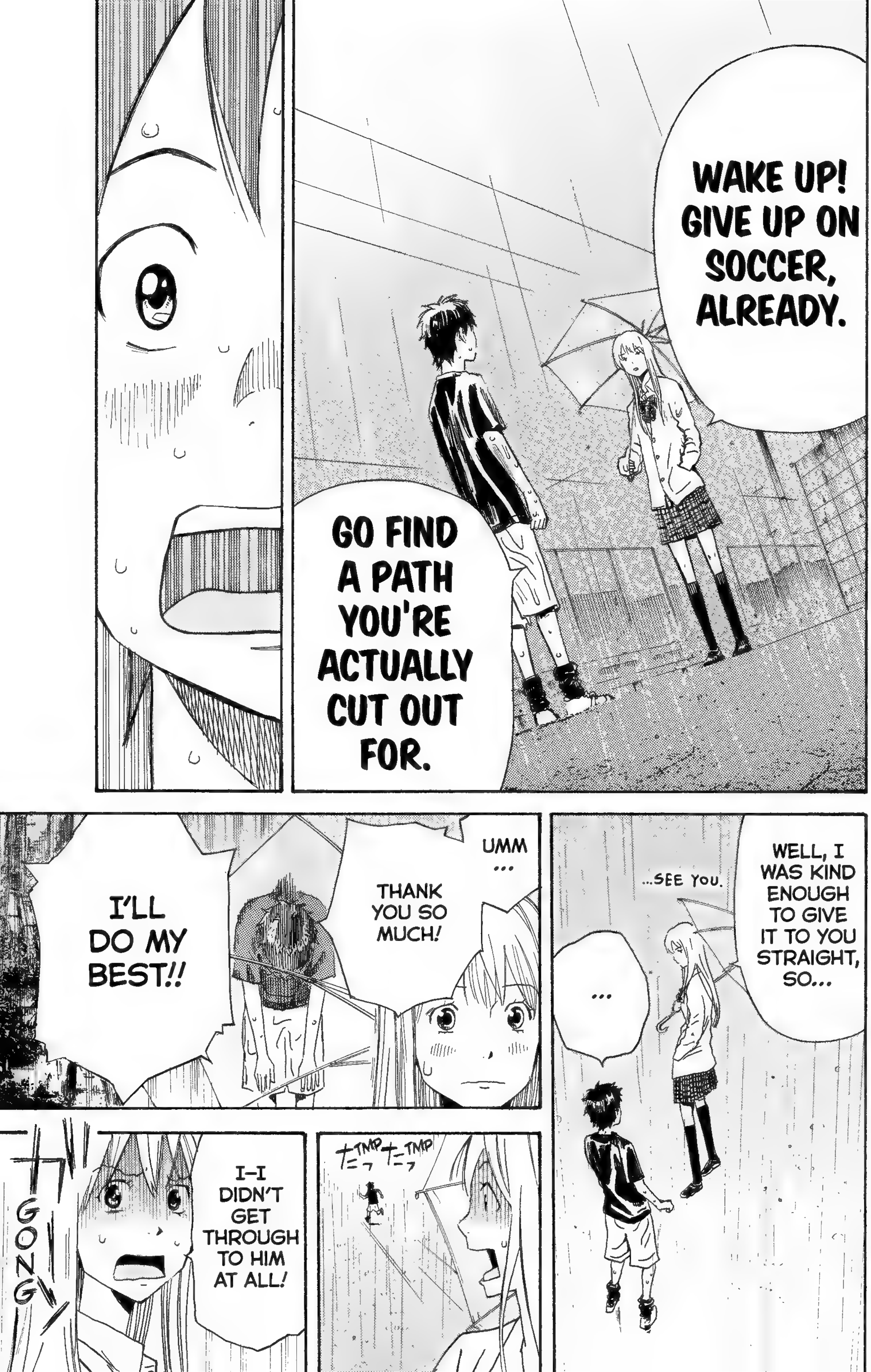

YOU AND KAZAMA ARE FROM TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLDS, YOU KNOW THAT?
CHANNELING MICHELANGELO'S DAVID.
KAZAMA SURE IS COOL!
WHERE DO *YOU* GET YOUR SENSE OF BEAUTY?
TRY AS YOU MIGHT, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE HIM.
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, THE SOONER YOU GIVE UP, THE BETTER.
THEN IF YOU CAN, YOU SHOULD BE LIKE ME...
OOTOMO, YOU ARE AWESOME AT NAILS!
WHOOOA!
WELL, IT IS MY JOB!
HOLY CRAP!!
...AND TRY TO GET AS MUCH ENJOYMENT OUT OF LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

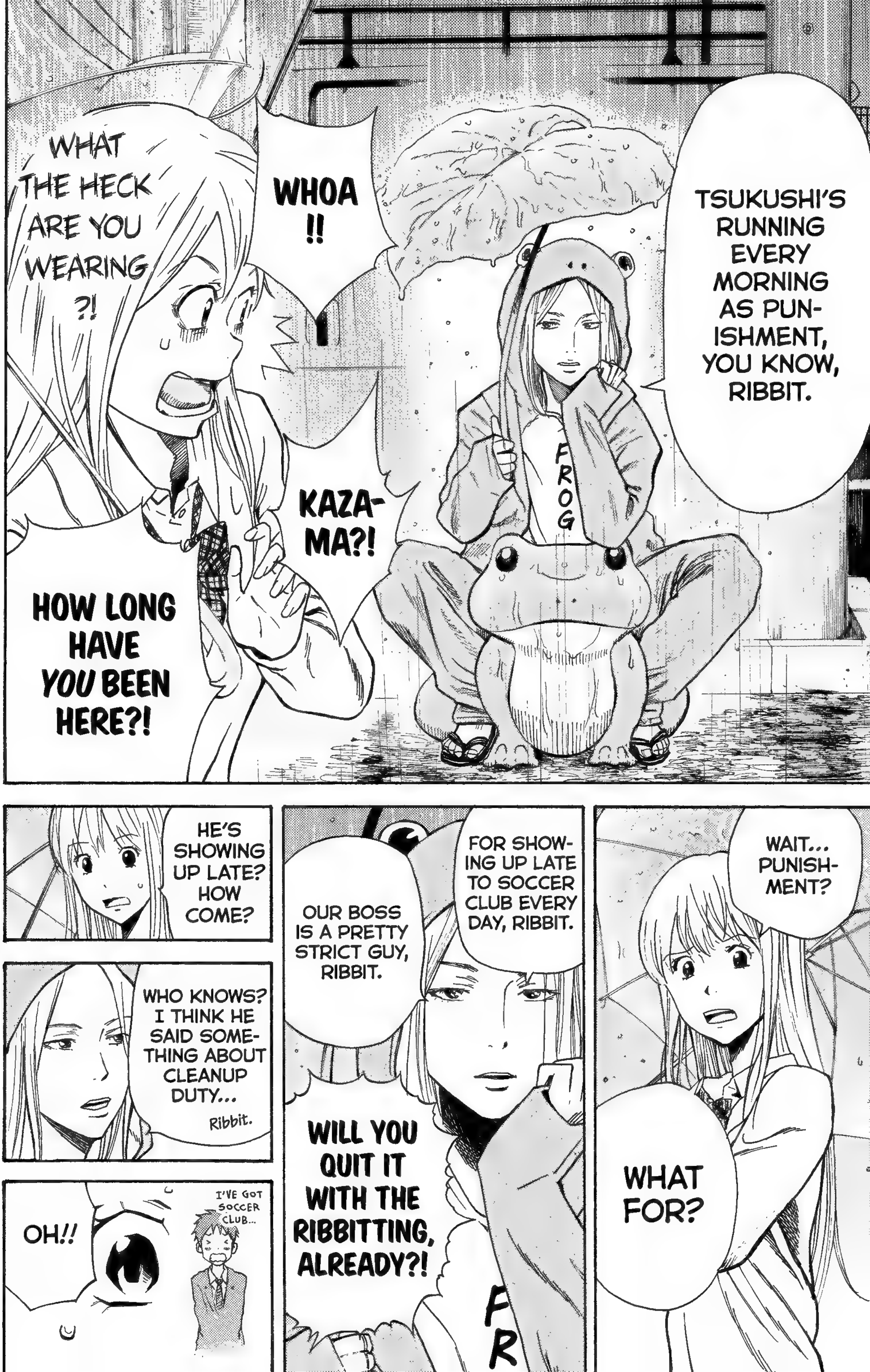

TSUKA-MOTO...
...YOU'RE ONE OF THE DREGS OF SOCIETY. YOU'RE A FAILURE AND A MORON.
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF MY BUSINESS...
SO PRETTY!
SOONER OR LATER, EVEN HE WILL HAVE TO NOTICE.
IF ONLY THAT STUPID TSUKUSHI WASN'T A TOTAL IDIOT...
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIKAKO?
THERE HE GOES AGAIN...
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE THIS MORNING!
WHAP
I'M GOING.
FOR EVERYBODY'S SAKE.
NOW I'M PISSED!
GOING? WHERE?

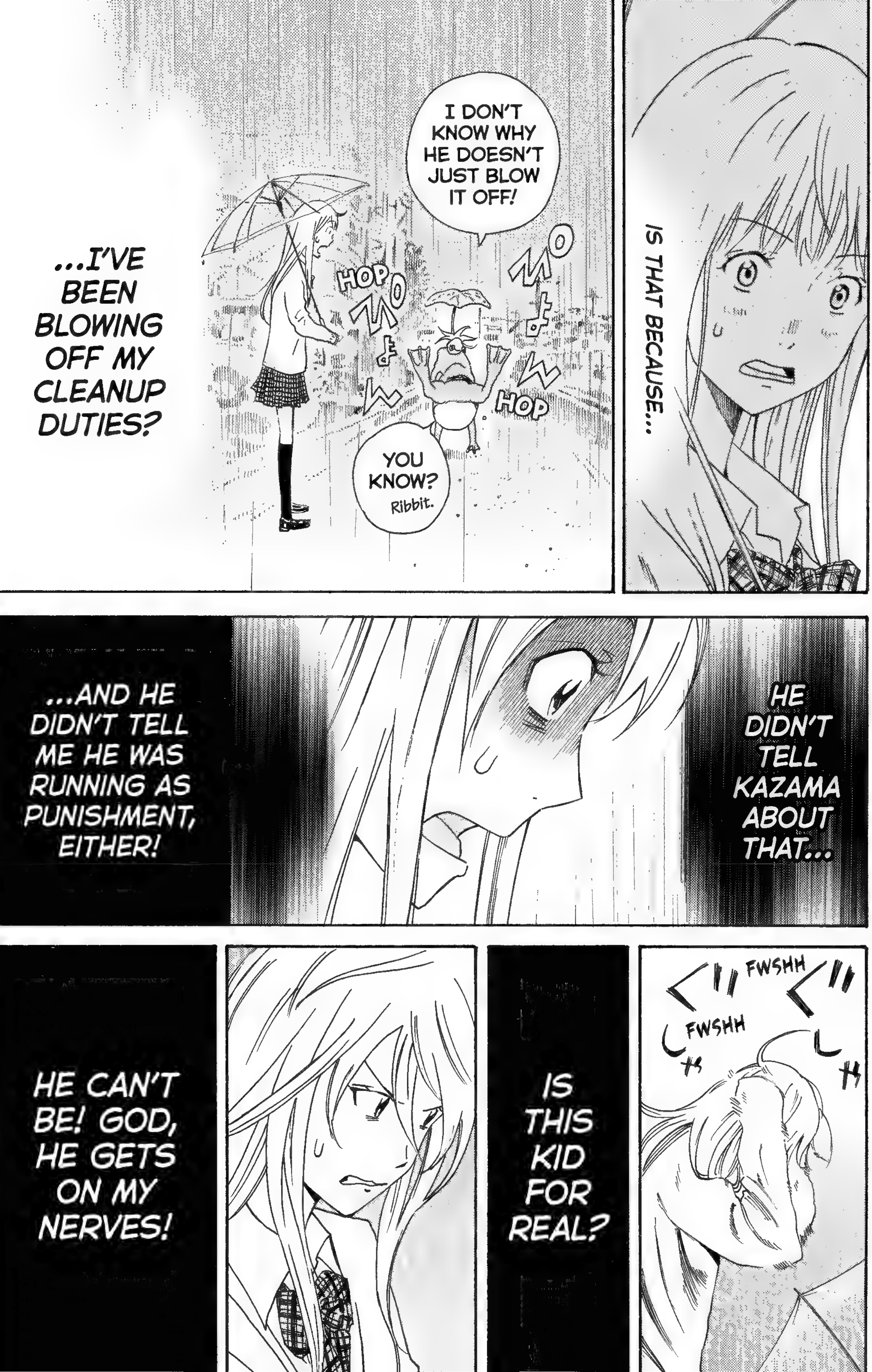

HUFF
HUFF
SEISEKI
VSHHH
...!!
OH...
UBUKATA... SAN? WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TSUKAMOTO...

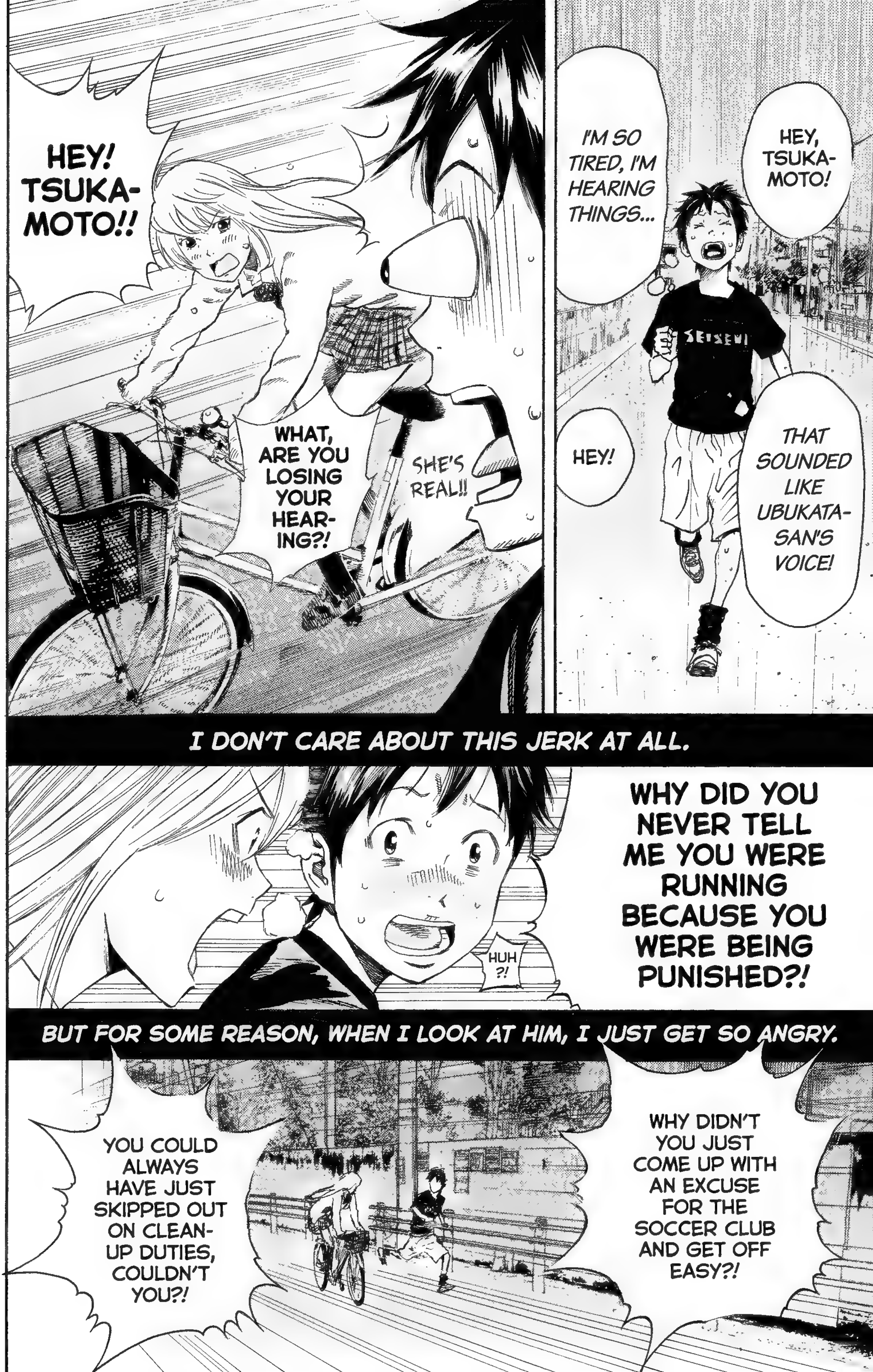

YOU'RE LIVING YOUR LIFE ALL WRONG.
HUH ...?
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
UMM ...
H-HOW SO?
I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR PLACE.
YOU DO REALIZE EVERYBODY IN CLASS LAUGHS AT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK, RIGHT?
W...
WELL ...

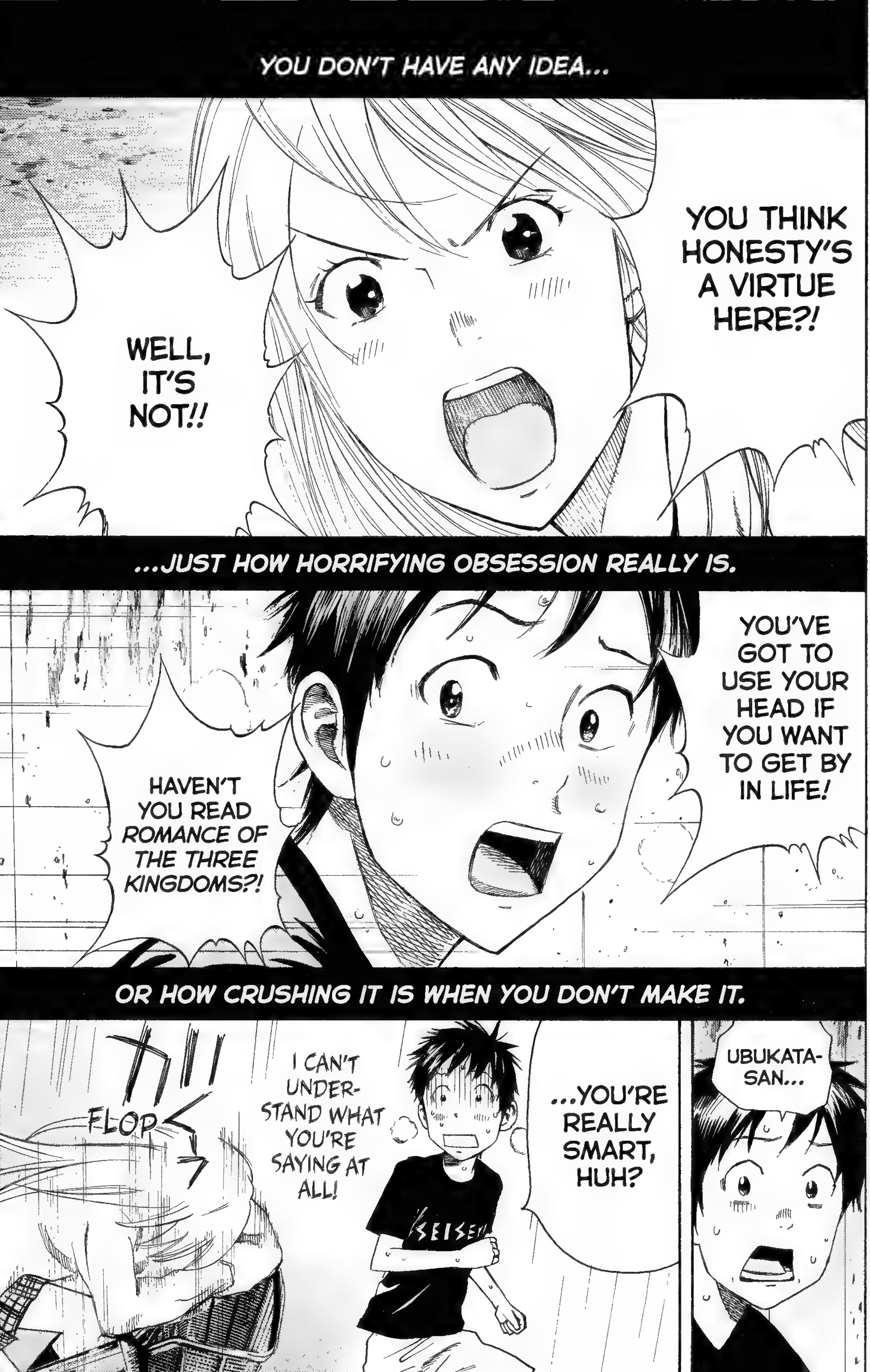

YOU CAN WORK AS HARD AS YOU WANT, BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE KAZAMA.
... HUH?
THERE'S NOT A CHANCE IN THE WORLD.
AND THAT'S HOW IT'S BEEN SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE TRYING TO BECOME ABE LINCOLN...
...OR BILL GATES OR SOMETHING.
YOUR REFLEXES ARE AN ABSOLUTE DISASTER, RIGHT?
YOU'LL NEVER CUT IT IN SOCCER.
YOU'RE TOO DENSE...
...TOO CLUMSY...
...AND TOO STUPID.

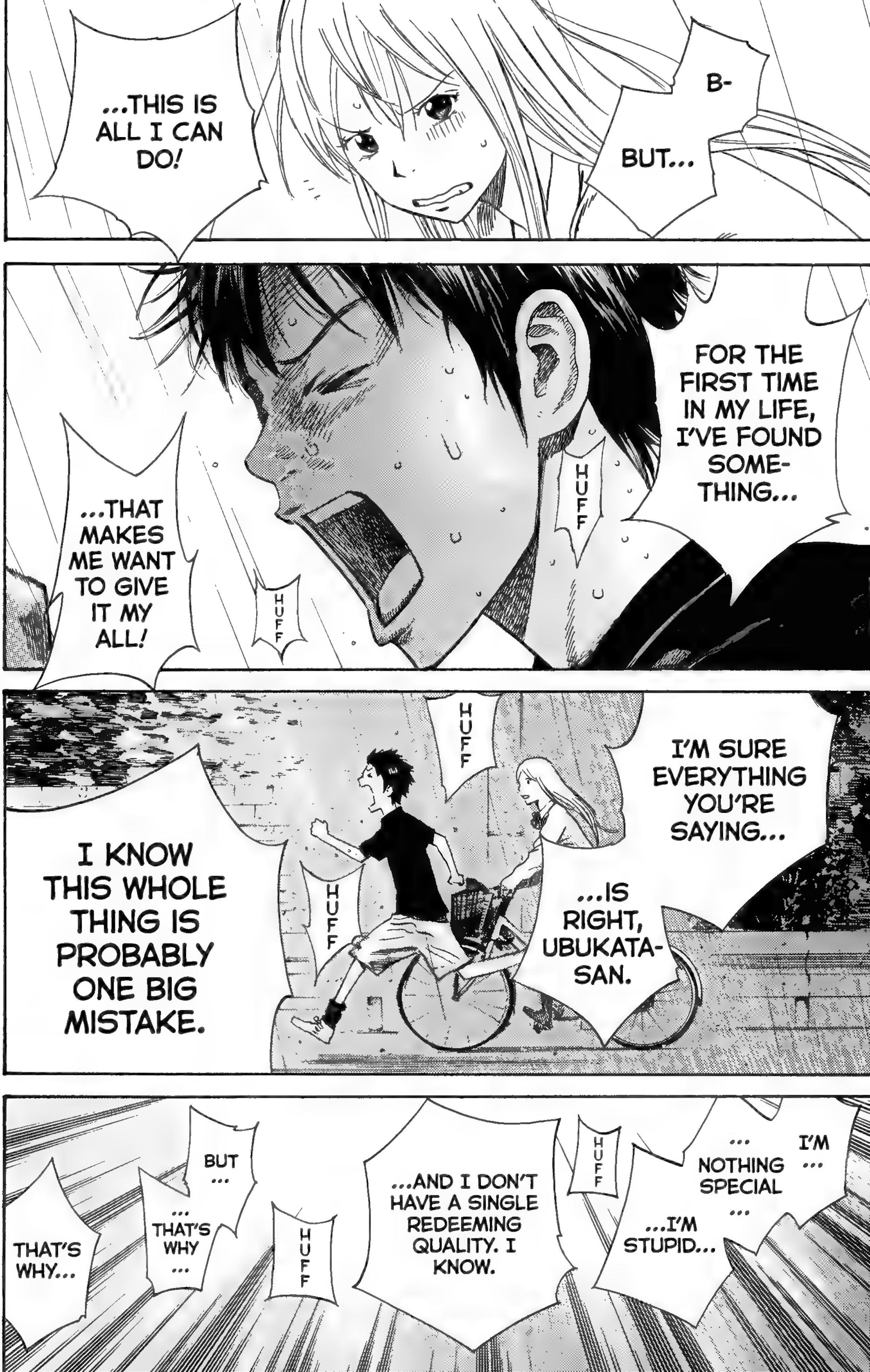

WAKE UP! GIVE UP ON SOCCER, ALREADY.
GO FIND A PATH YOU'RE ACTUALLY CUT OUT FOR.
WELL, I WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, SO...
...SEE YOU.
...
UMM ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I'LL DO MY BEST!!
TMP TMP
GONG
I-I DIDN'T GET THROUGH TO HIM AT ALL!

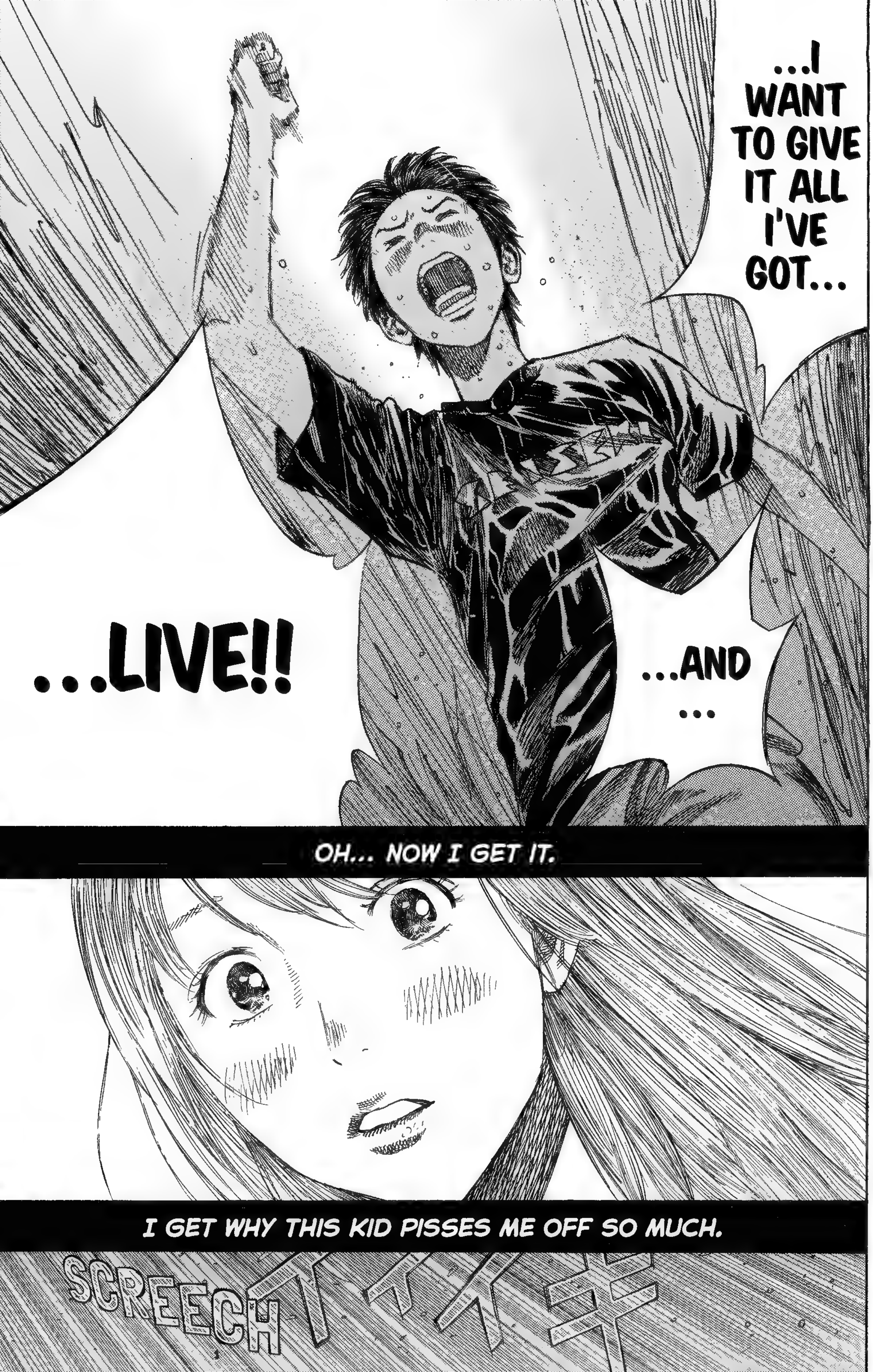

TSUKUSHI'S RUNNING EVERY MORNING AS PUNISHMENT, YOU KNOW, RIBBIT.
FROG
WHOA!!
KAZAMA?!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU WEARING?!
HOW LONG HAVE *YOU* BEEN HERE?!
WAIT... PUNISHMENT?
WHAT FOR?
FOR SHOWING UP LATE TO SOCCER CLUB EVERY DAY, RIBBIT.
OUR BOSS IS A PRETTY STRICT GUY, RIBBIT.
WILL YOU QUIT IT WITH THE RIBBITTING, ALREADY?!
FR
HE'S SHOWING UP LATE? HOW COME?
WHO KNOWS? I THINK HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT CLEANUP DUTY...
Ribbit.
OH!!
I'VE GOT SOCCER CLUB...

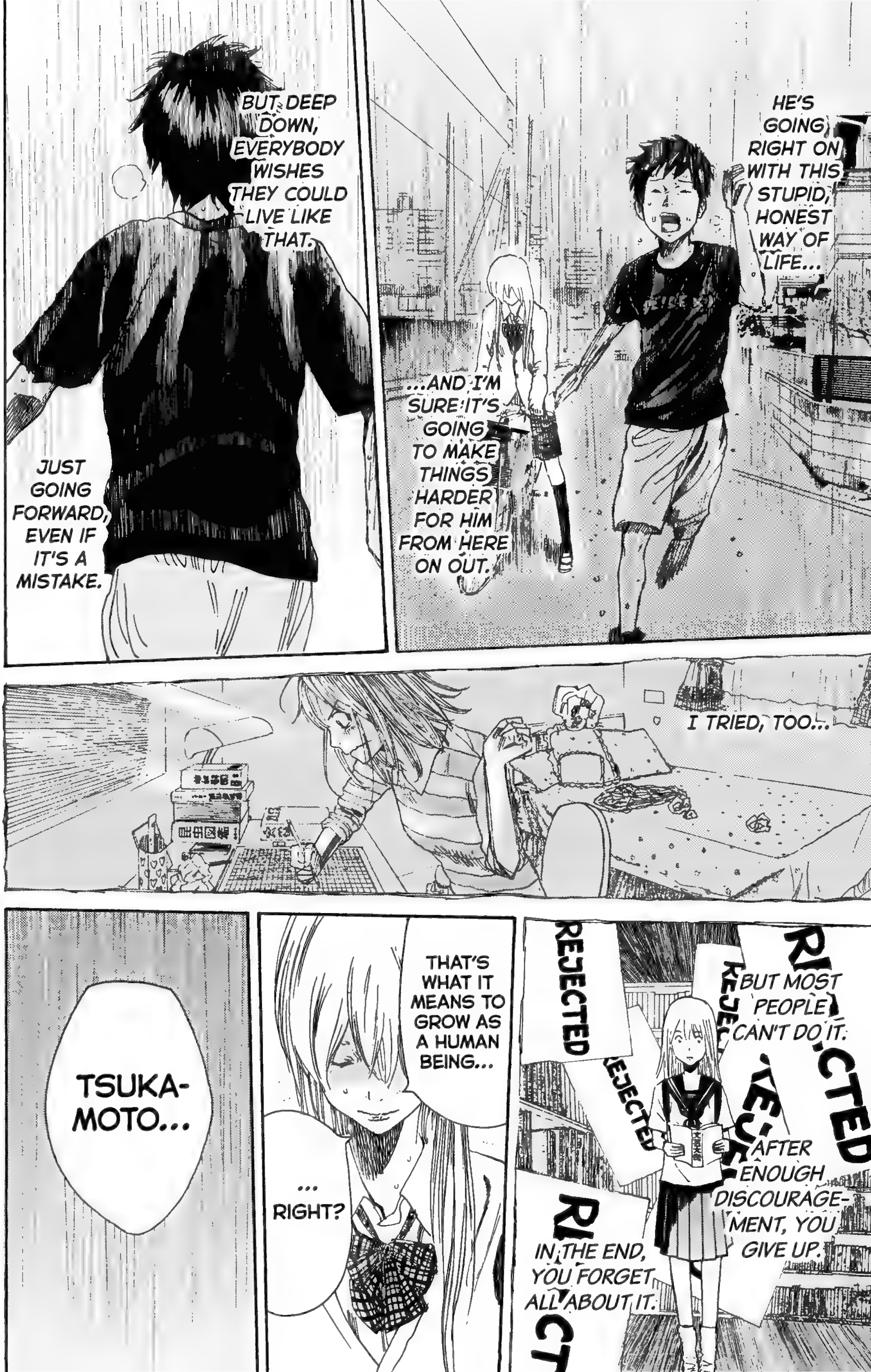

IS THAT BECAUSE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE DOESN'T JUST BLOW IT OFF!
HOP
HOP
YOU KNOW? Ribbit.
...I'VE BEEN BLOWING OFF MY CLEANUP DUTIES?
HE DIDN'T TELL KAZAMA ABOUT THAT...
...AND HE DIDN'T TELL ME HE WAS RUNNING AS PUNISHMENT, EITHER!
FWSHH
FWSHH
IS THIS KID FOR REAL?
HE CAN'T BE! GOD, HE GETS ON MY NERVES!

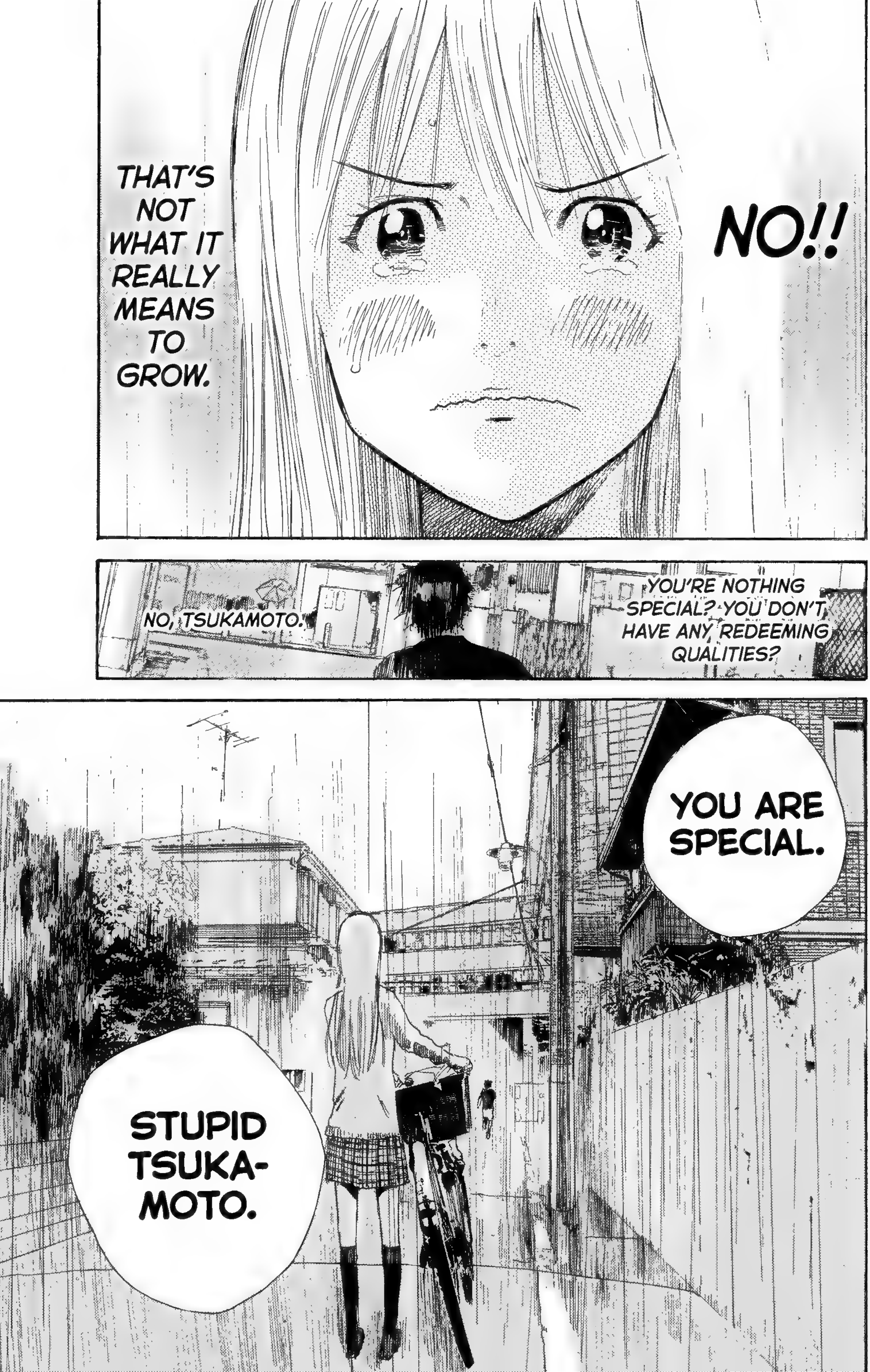

HEY, TSUKAMOTO!
I'M SO TIRED, I'M HEARING THINGS...
THAT SOUNDED LIKE UBUKATA-SAN'S VOICE!
HEY!
HEY! TSUKAMOTO!!
SHE'S REAL!!
WHAT, ARE YOU LOSING YOUR HEARING?!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS JERK AT ALL.
WHY DID YOU NEVER TELL ME YOU WERE RUNNING BECAUSE YOU WERE BEING PUNISHED?!
HUH?!
BUT FOR SOME REASON, WHEN I LOOK AT HIM, I JUST GET SO ANGRY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE FOR THE SOCCER CLUB AND GET OFF EASY?!
YOU COULD ALWAYS HAVE JUST SKIPPED OUT ON CLEAN-UP DUTIES, COULDN'T YOU?!

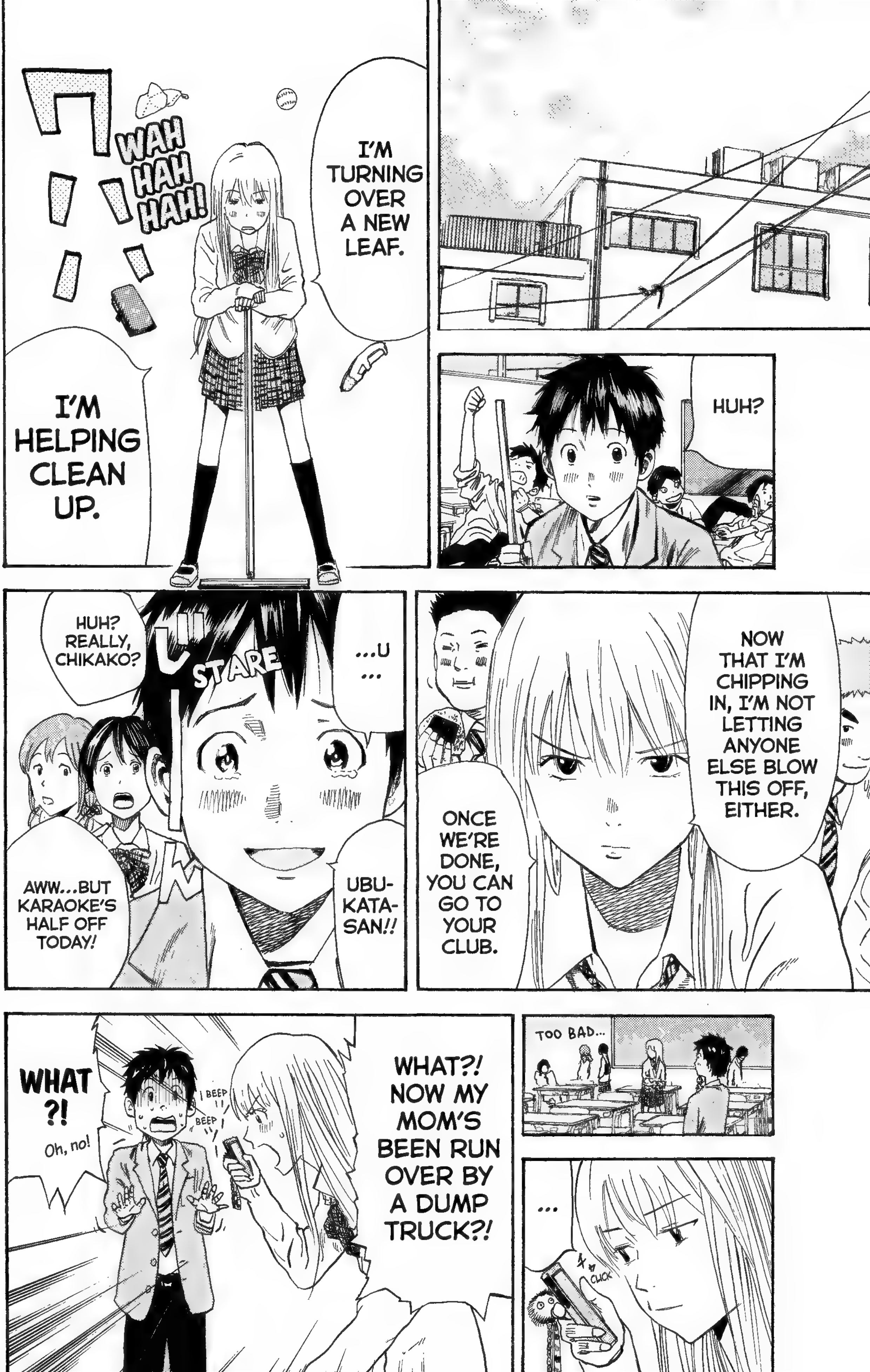

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA...
YOU THINK HONESTY'S A VIRTUE HERE?!
WELL, IT'S NOT!!
...JUST HOW HORRIFYING OBSESSION REALLY IS.
YOU'VE GOT TO USE YOUR HEAD IF YOU WANT TO GET BY IN LIFE!
HAVEN'T YOU READ *ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS*?!
OR HOW CRUSHING IT IS WHEN YOU DON'T MAKE IT.
UBUKATA-SAN...
...YOU'RE REALLY SMART, HUH?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AT ALL!
SEISEN
FLOP

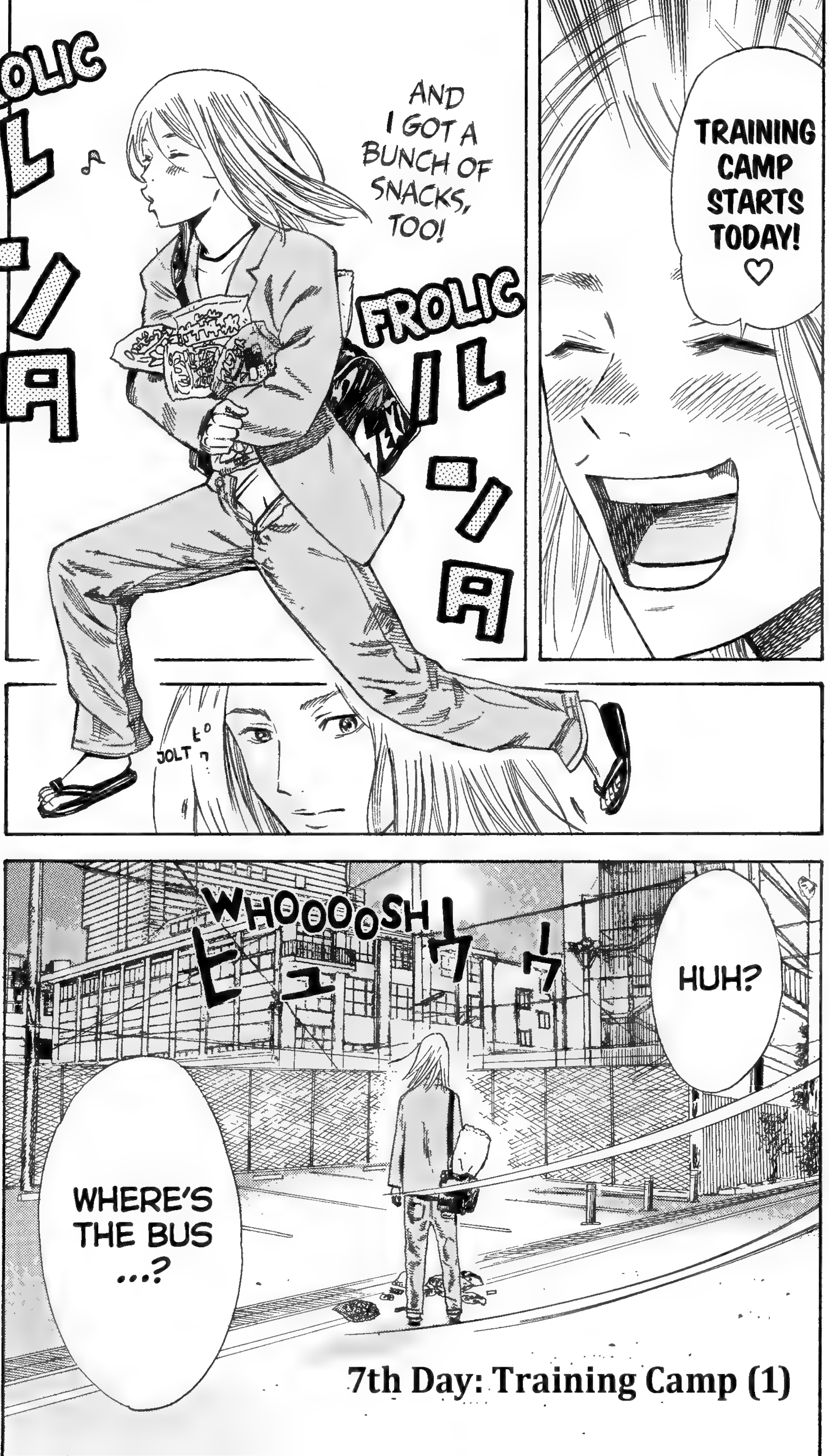

B-
BUT...
...THIS IS ALL I CAN DO!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'VE FOUND SOMETHING...
HUFF
HUFF
...THAT MAKES ME WANT TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
I'M SURE EVERYTHING YOU'RE SAYING...
HUFF
...IS RIGHT, UBUKATA-SAN.
HUFF
I KNOW THIS WHOLE THING IS PROBABLY ONE BIG MISTAKE.
I'M...
...NOTHING SPECIAL...
...I'M STUPID...
HUFF
...AND I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE REDEEMING QUALITY. I KNOW.
HUFF
BUT...
...THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY...


...I WANT TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT...
...AND ...
...LIVE!!
OH... NOW I GET IT.
I GET WHY THIS KID PISSES ME OFF SO MUCH.
SCREECH

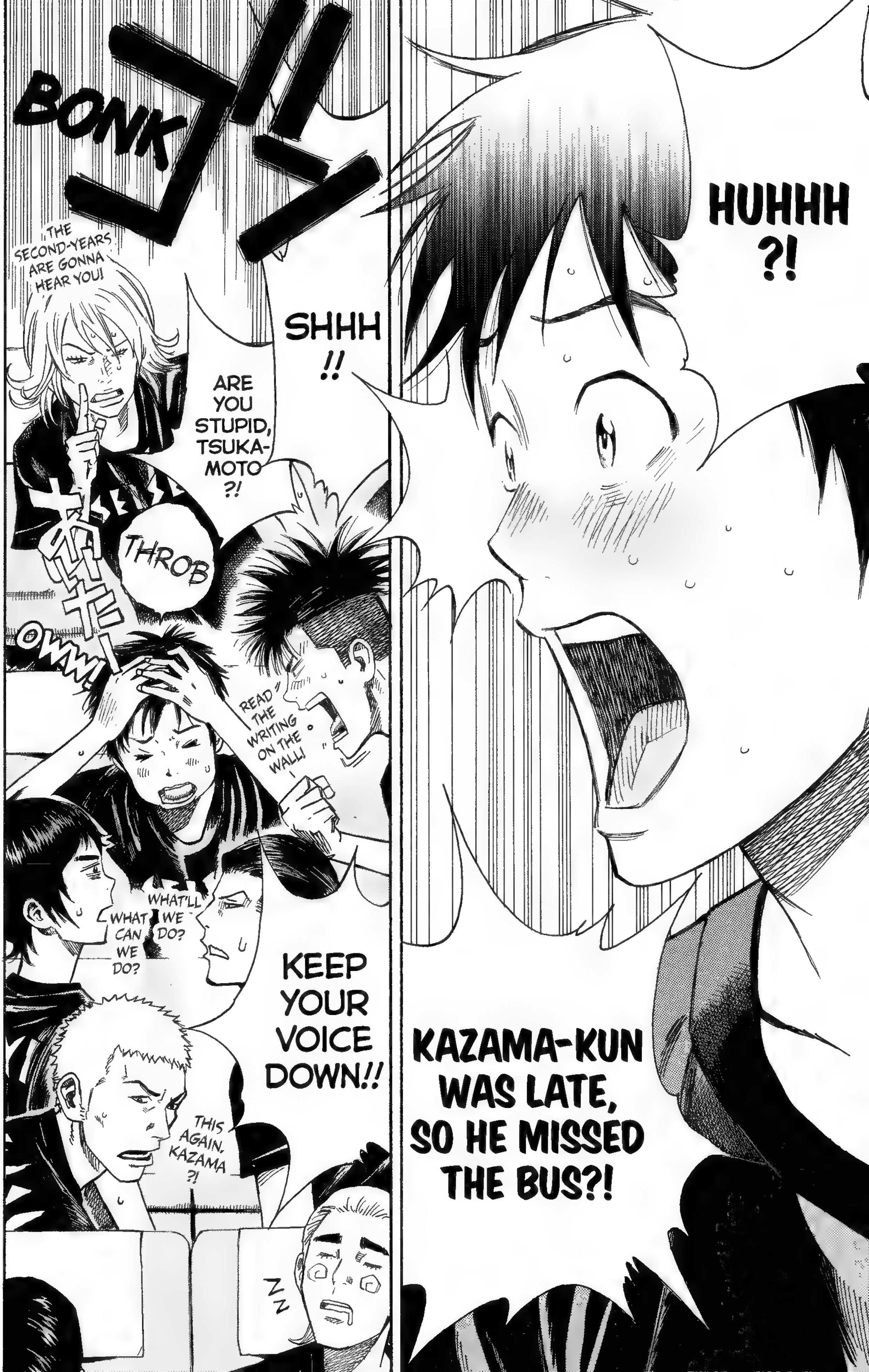

HE'S GOING RIGHT ON WITH THIS STUPID, HONEST WAY OF LIFE...
...AND I'M SURE IT'S GOING TO MAKE THINGS HARDER FOR HIM FROM HERE ON OUT.
BUT DEEP DOWN, EVERYBODY WISHES THEY COULD LIVE LIKE THAT.
JUST GOING FORWARD, EVEN IF IT'S A MISTAKE.
I TRIED, TOO...
REJECTED
REJECTED
REJECTED
REJECTED
BUT MOST PEOPLE CAN'T DO IT.
AFTER ENOUGH DISCOURAGEMENT, YOU GIVE UP.
IN THE END, YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO GROW AS A HUMAN BEING...
...RIGHT?
TSUKAMOTO...

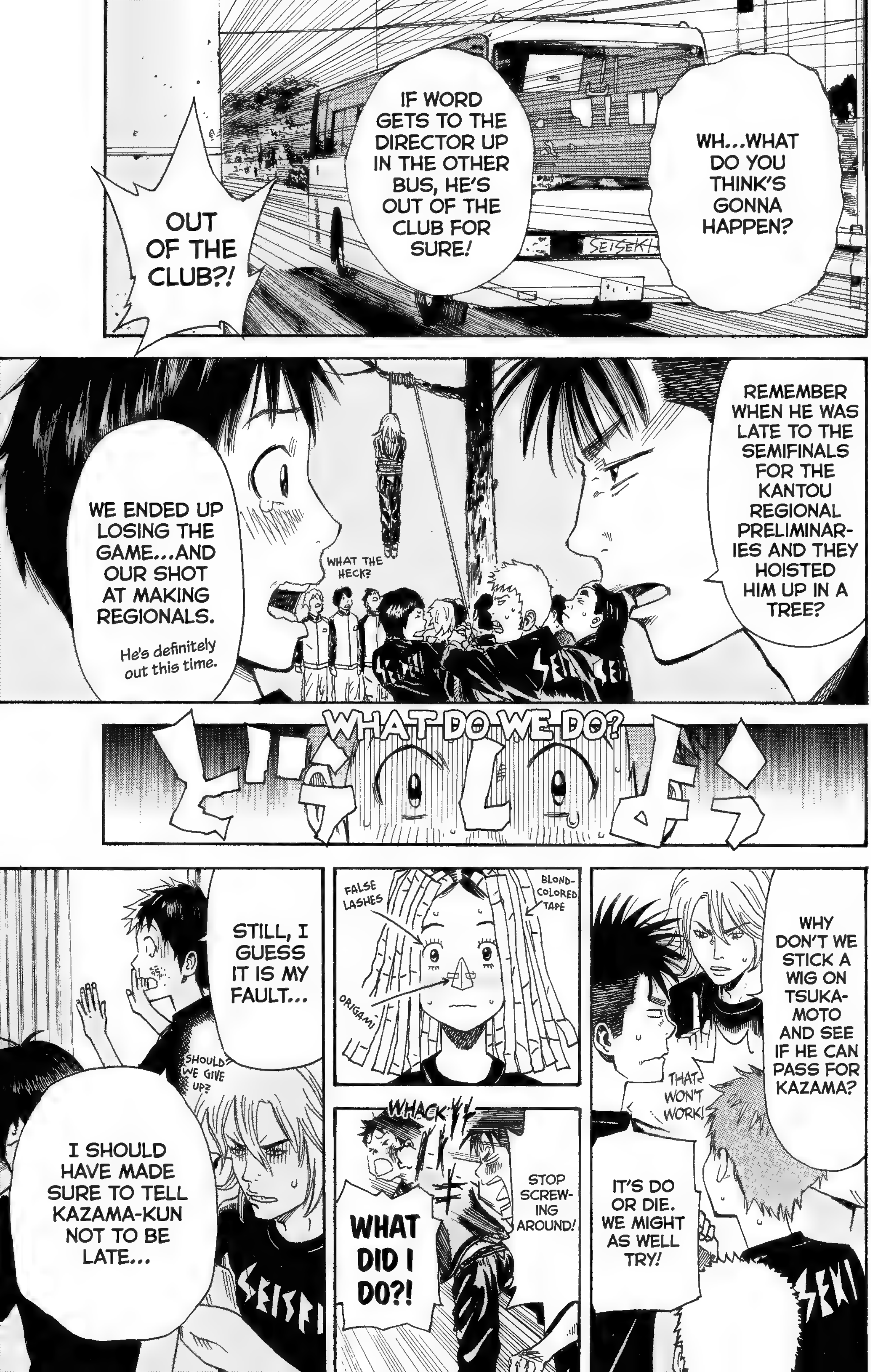

NO!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO GROW.
YOU'RE NOTHING SPECIAL? YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REDEEMING QUALITIES?
NO, TSUKAMOTO.
YOU ARE SPECIAL.
STUPID TSUKAMOTO.

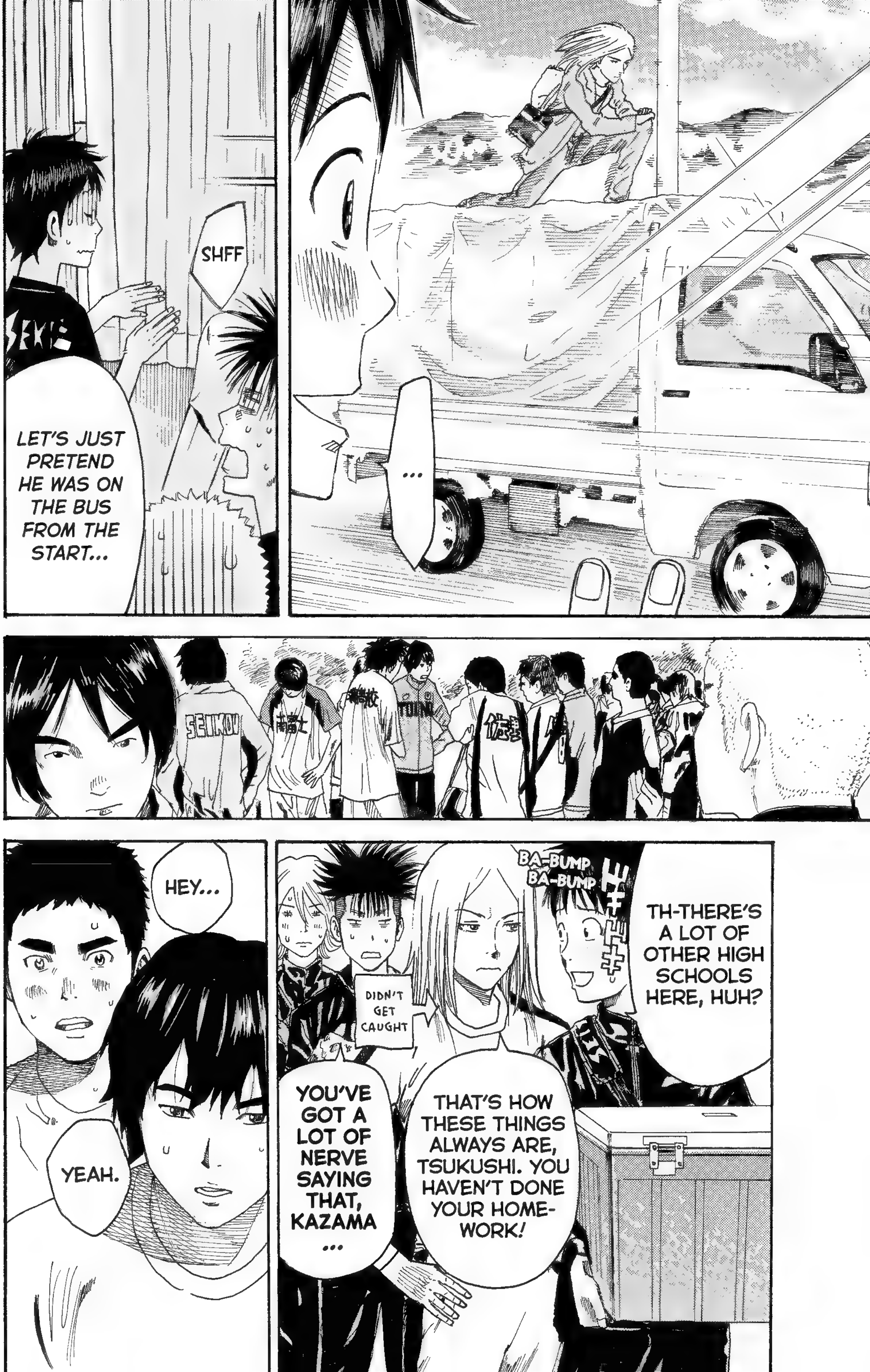

HUH?
I'M TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.
I'M HELPING CLEAN UP.
WAH HAH HAH!
NOW THAT I'M CHIPPING IN, I'M NOT LETTING ANYONE ELSE BLOW THIS OFF, EITHER.
ONCE WE'RE DONE, YOU CAN GO TO YOUR CLUB.
...U ...
STARE
UBU-KATA-SAN!!
HUH? REALLY, CHIKAKO?
AWW...BUT KARAOKE'S HALF OFF TODAY!
TOO BAD...
...
CLICK
WHAT?! NOW MY MOM'S BEEN RUN OVER BY A DUMP TRUCK?!
BEEP
BEEP
WHAT?!
Oh, no!

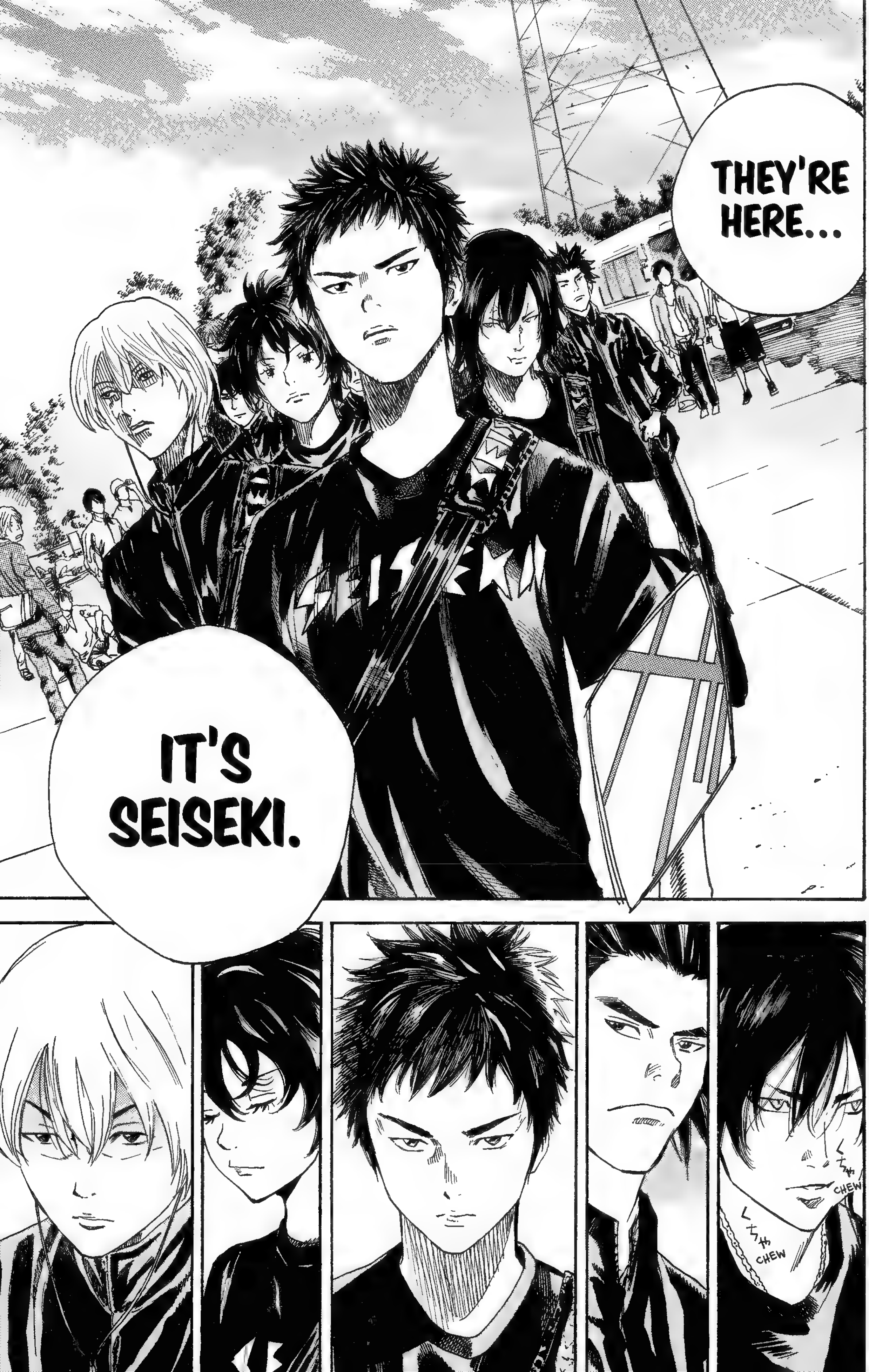

TRAINING CAMP STARTS TODAY! ♡
FROLIC ルンタ
AND I GOT A BUNCH OF SNACKS, TOO!
FROLIC ルンタ
JOLT ビクッ
WHOOOOSH ヒュウウ
HUH?
WHERE'S THE BUS ...?

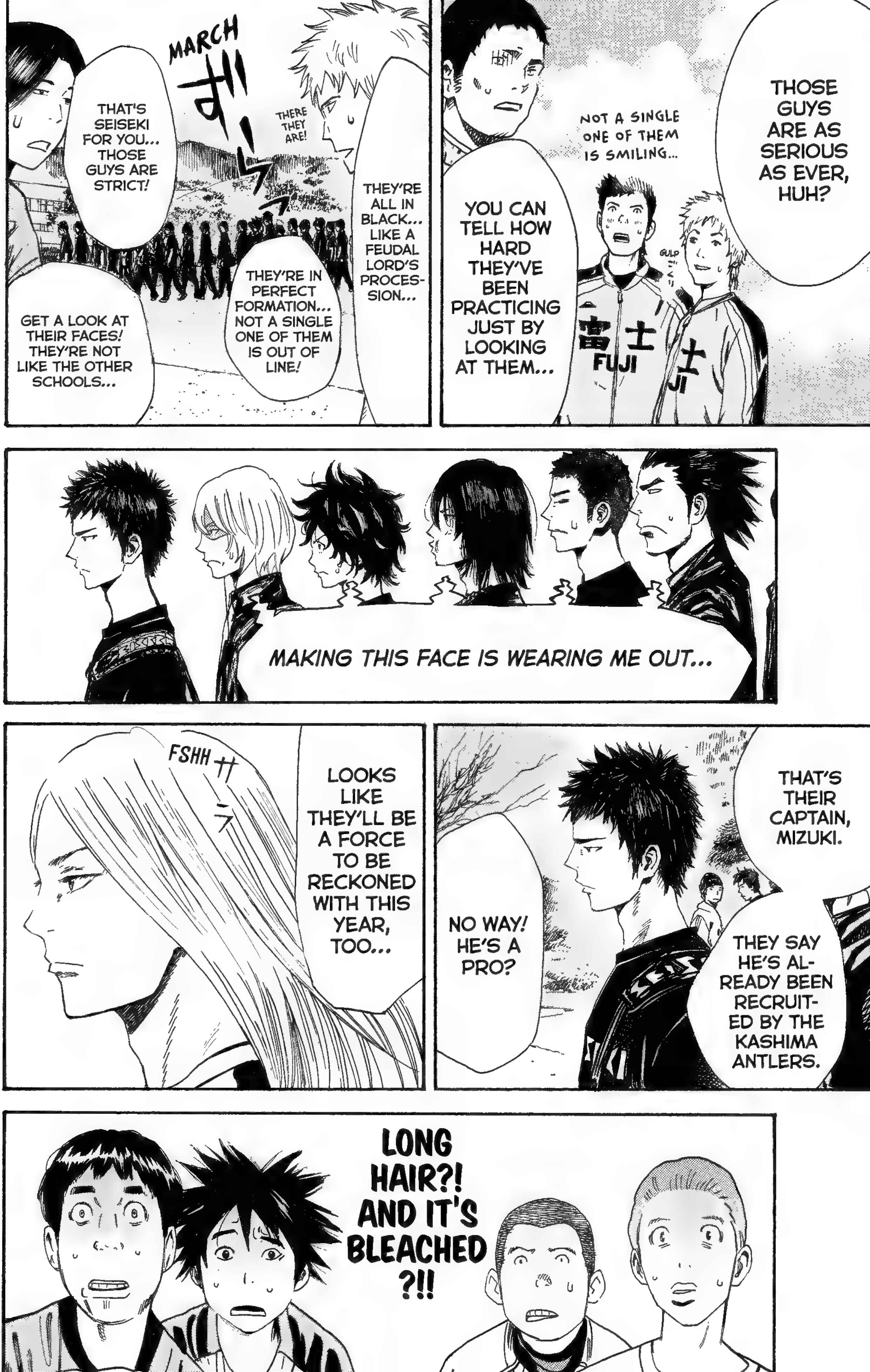
7th Day: Training Camp (1)

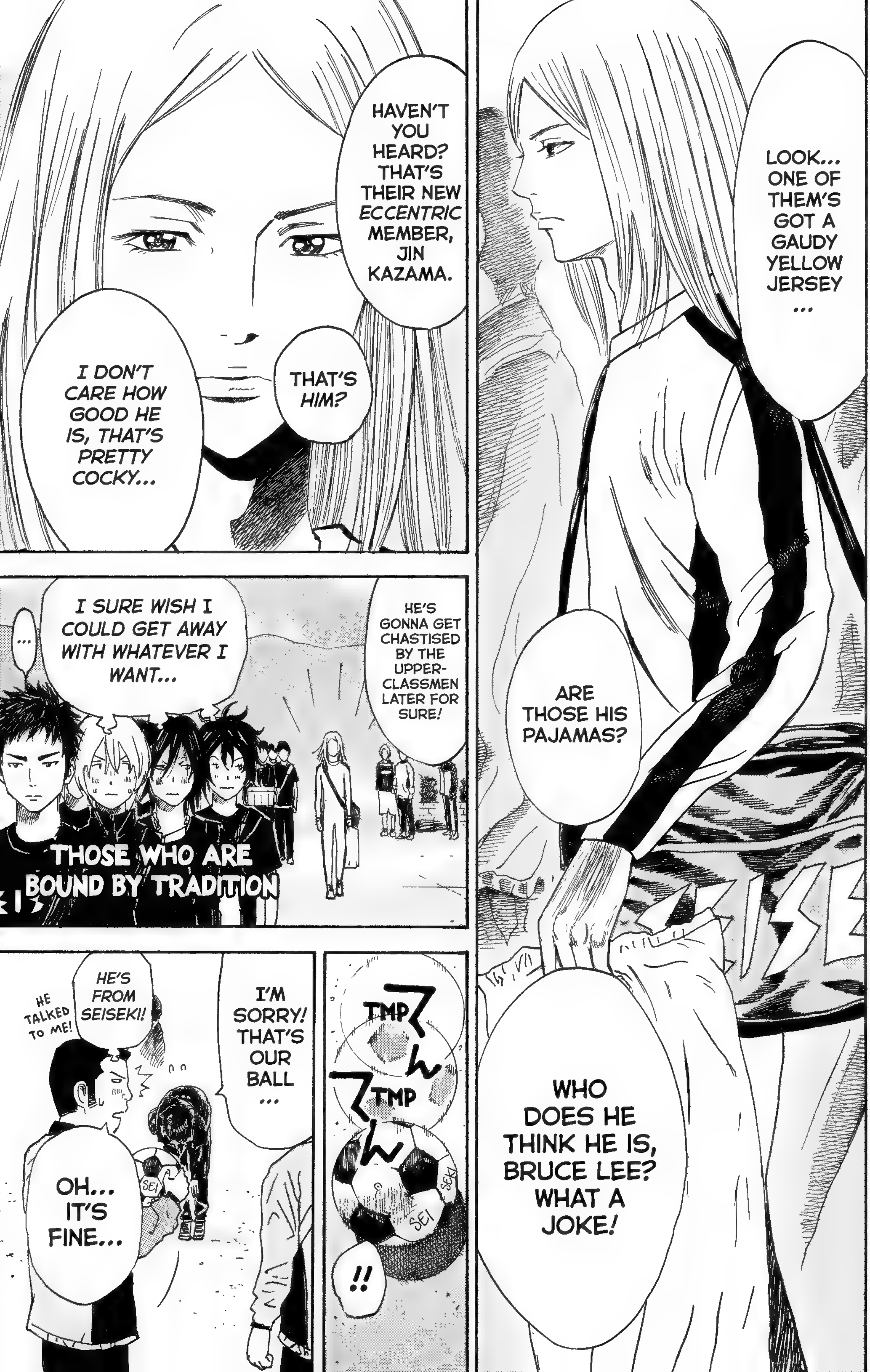

HUHHH ?!
KAZAMA-KUN WAS LATE, SO HE MISSED THE BUS?!
BONK
SHHH !!
THE SECOND-YEARS ARE GONNA HEAR YOU!
ARE YOU STUPID, TSUKAMOTO ?!
THROB
OWWW!
READ THE WRITING ON THE WALL!
WHAT'LL WE DO?
WHAT CAN WE DO?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!!
THIS AGAIN, KAZAMA ?!
ZZ

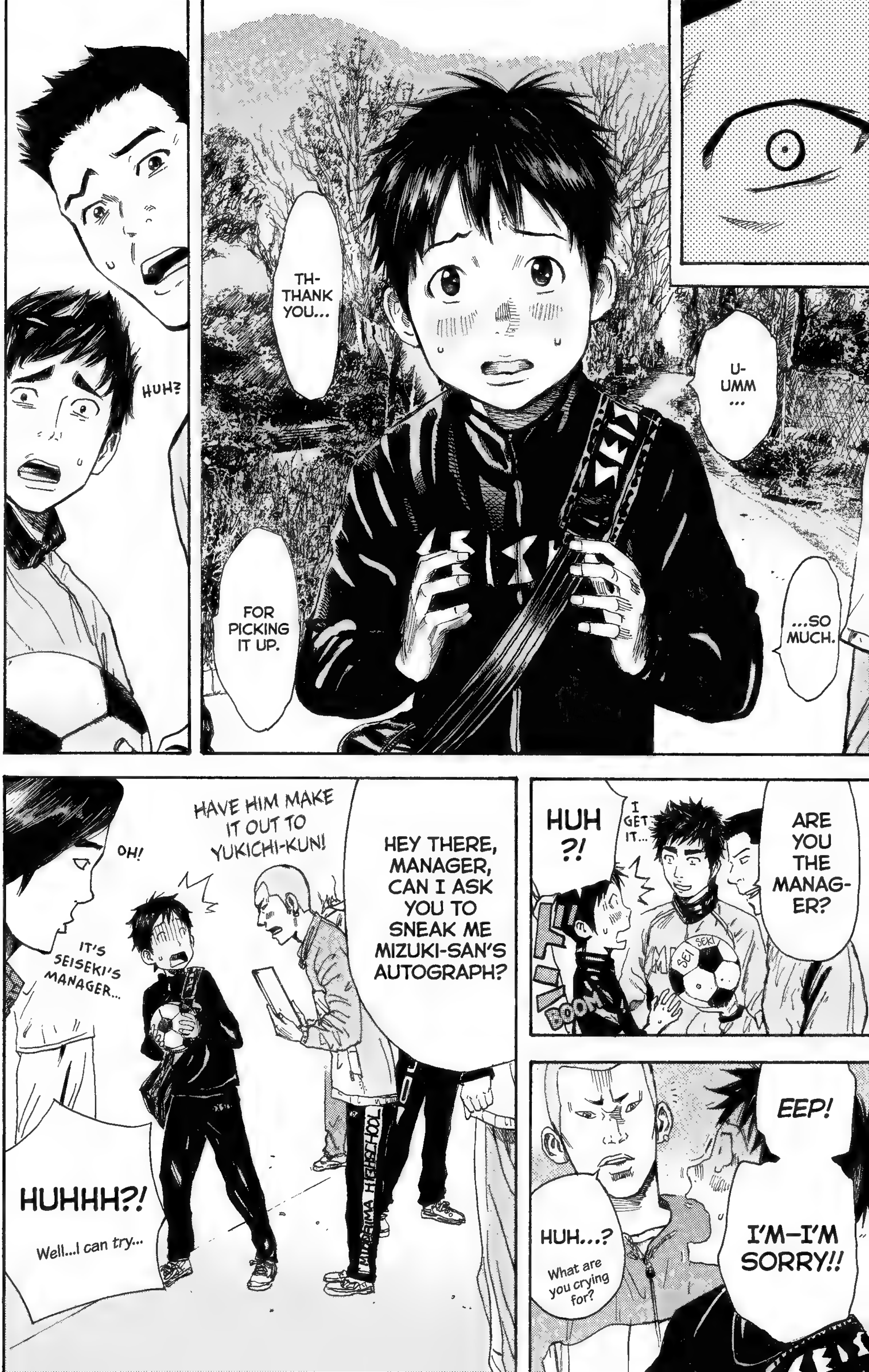

SEISEKI
WH...WHAT DO YOU THINK'S GONNA HAPPEN?
IF WORD GETS TO THE DIRECTOR UP IN THE OTHER BUS, HE'S OUT OF THE CLUB FOR SURE!
OUT OF THE CLUB?!
REMEMBER WHEN HE WAS LATE TO THE SEMIFINALS FOR THE KANTOU REGIONAL PRELIMINARIES AND THEY HOISTED HIM UP IN A TREE?
WHAT THE HECK?
WE ENDED UP LOSING THE GAME...AND OUR SHOT AT MAKING REGIONALS.
He's definitely out this time.
WHAT DO WE DO?
どうしよう
WHY DON'T WE STICK A WIG ON TSUKAMOTO AND SEE IF HE CAN PASS FOR KAZAMA?
THAT WON'T WORK!
IT'S DO OR DIE. WE MIGHT AS WELL TRY!
BLOND-COLORED TAPE
FALSE LASHES
ORIGAMI
STOP SCREWING AROUND!
WHACK
WHAT DID I DO?!
STILL, I GUESS IT IS MY FAULT...
SHOULD WE GIVE UP?
I SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE TO TELL KAZAMA-KUN NOT TO BE LATE...

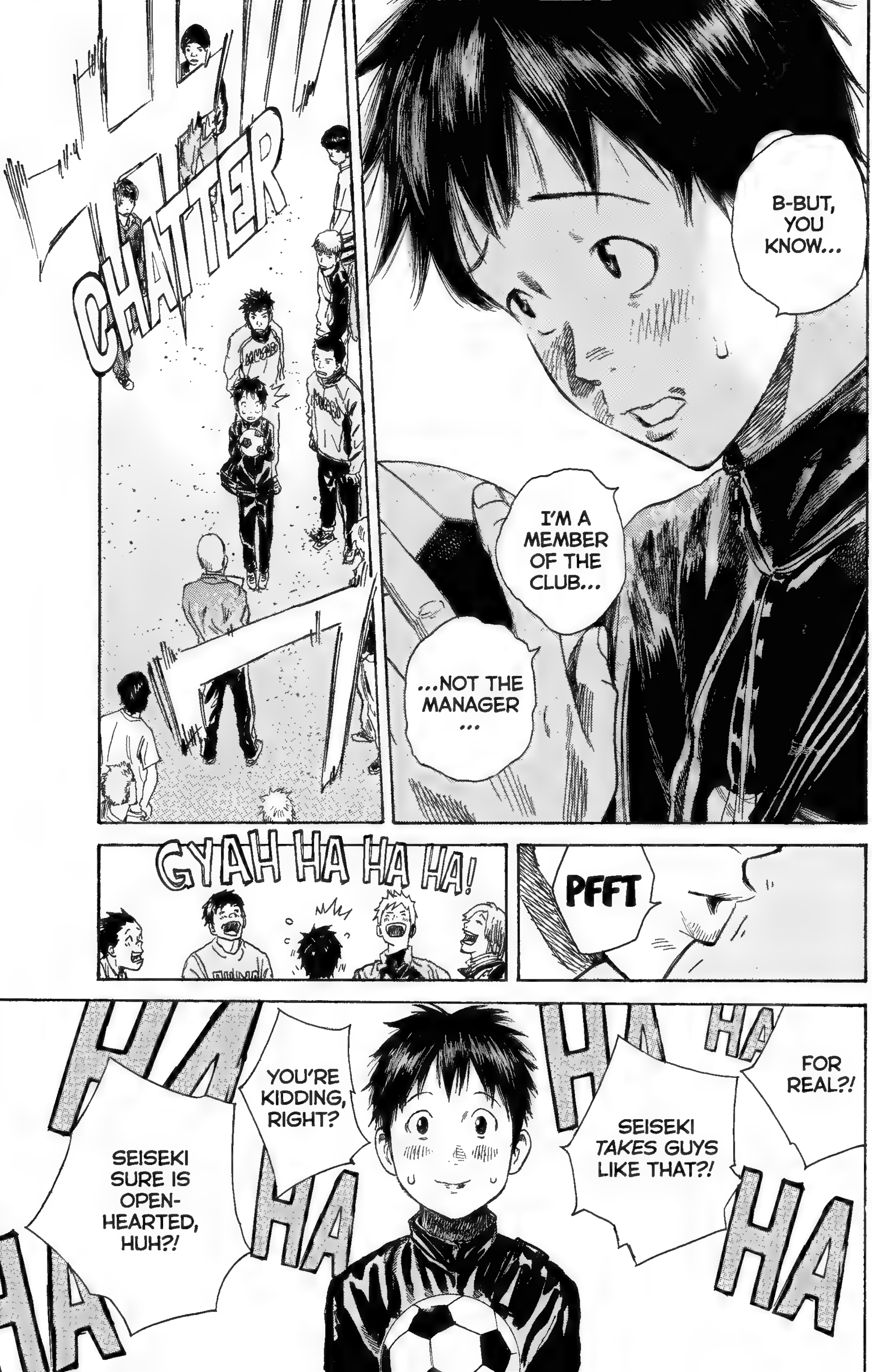

...
SHFF
LET'S JUST PRETEND HE WAS ON THE BUS FROM THE START...
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
TH-THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS HERE, HUH?
THAT'S HOW THESE THINGS ALWAYS ARE, TSUKUSHI. YOU HAVEN'T DONE YOUR HOMEWORK!
DIDN'T GET CAUGHT
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE SAYING THAT, KAZAMA...
HEY...
YEAH.

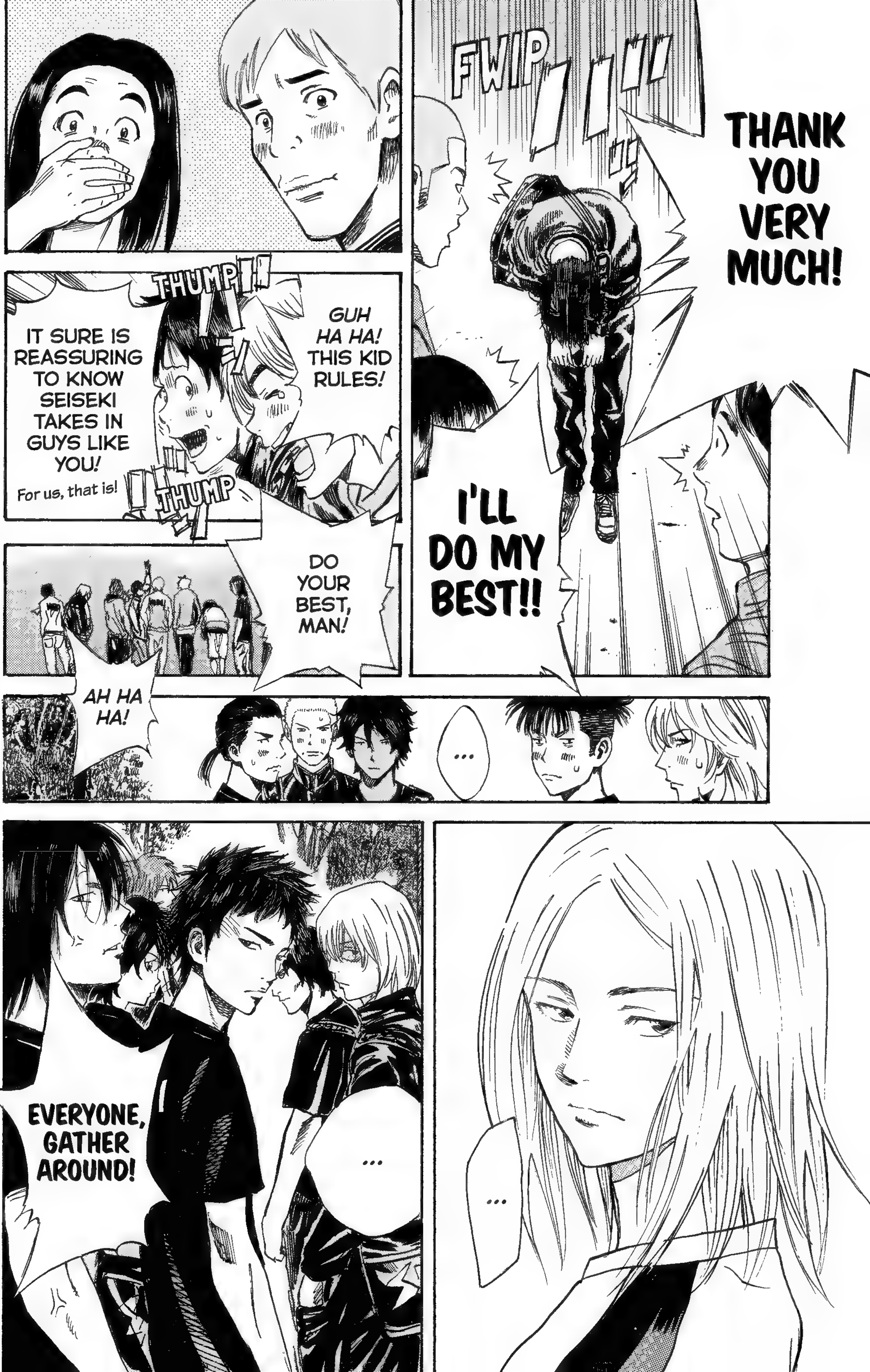

THEY'RE HERE...
SEISEKI
IT'S SEISEKI.
くちゃ CHEW
くちゃ CHEW

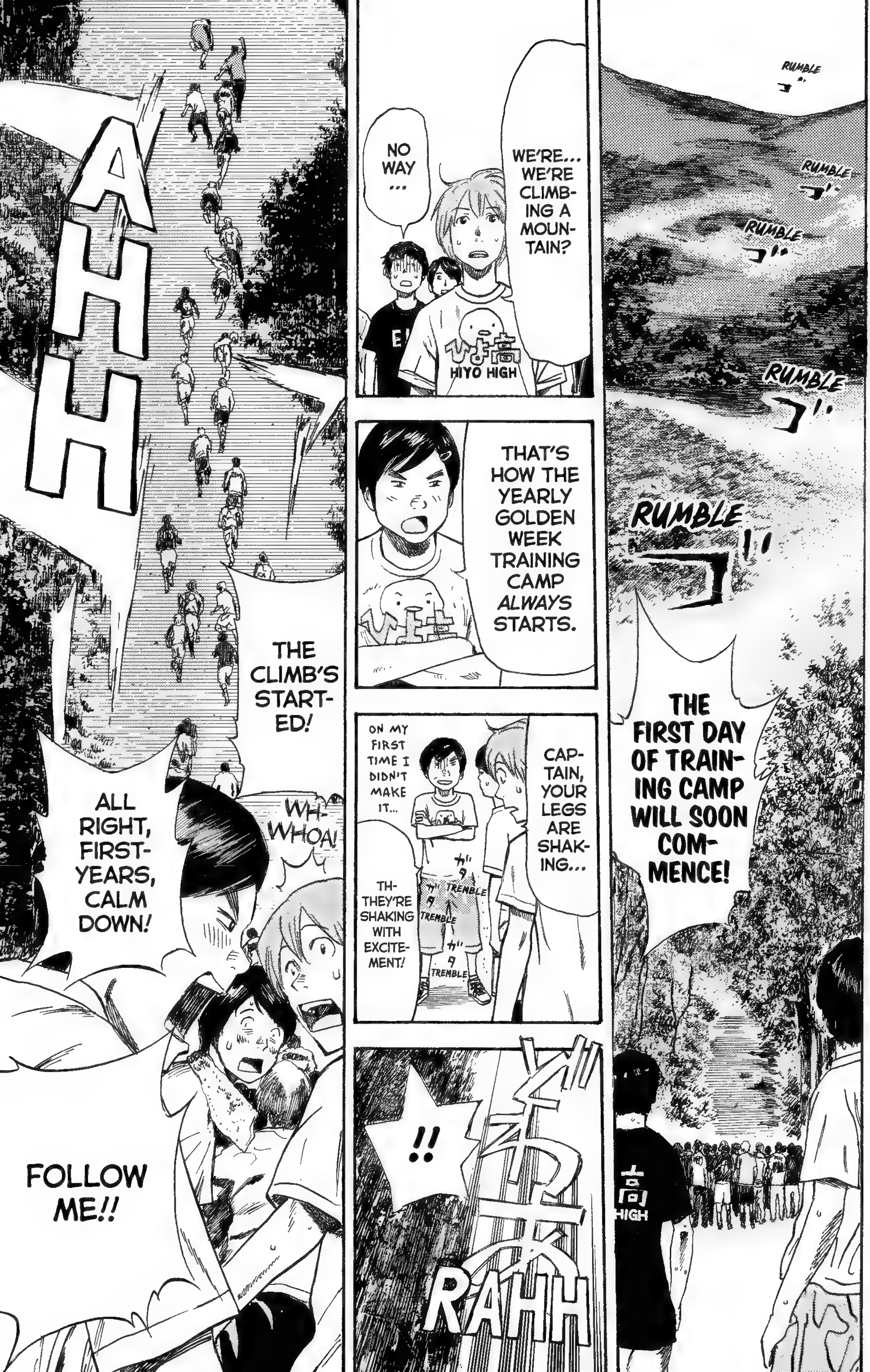

THOSE GUYS ARE AS SERIOUS AS EVER, HUH?
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS SMILING...
GULP
YOU CAN TELL HOW HARD THEY'VE BEEN PRACTICING JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM...
FUJI
MARCH
THERE THEY ARE!
THEY'RE ALL IN BLACK... LIKE A FEUDAL LORD'S PROCESSION...
THEY'RE IN PERFECT FORMATION... NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS OUT OF LINE!
THAT'S SEISEKI FOR YOU... THOSE GUYS ARE STRICT!
GET A LOOK AT THEIR FACES! THEY'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER SCHOOLS...
MAKING THIS FACE IS WEARING ME OUT...
THAT'S THEIR CAPTAIN, MIZUKI.
THEY SAY HE'S ALREADY BEEN RECRUITED BY THE KASHIMA ANTLERS.
NO WAY! HE'S A PRO?
FSHH
LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL BE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH THIS YEAR, TOO...
LONG HAIR?! AND IT'S BLEACHED?!!

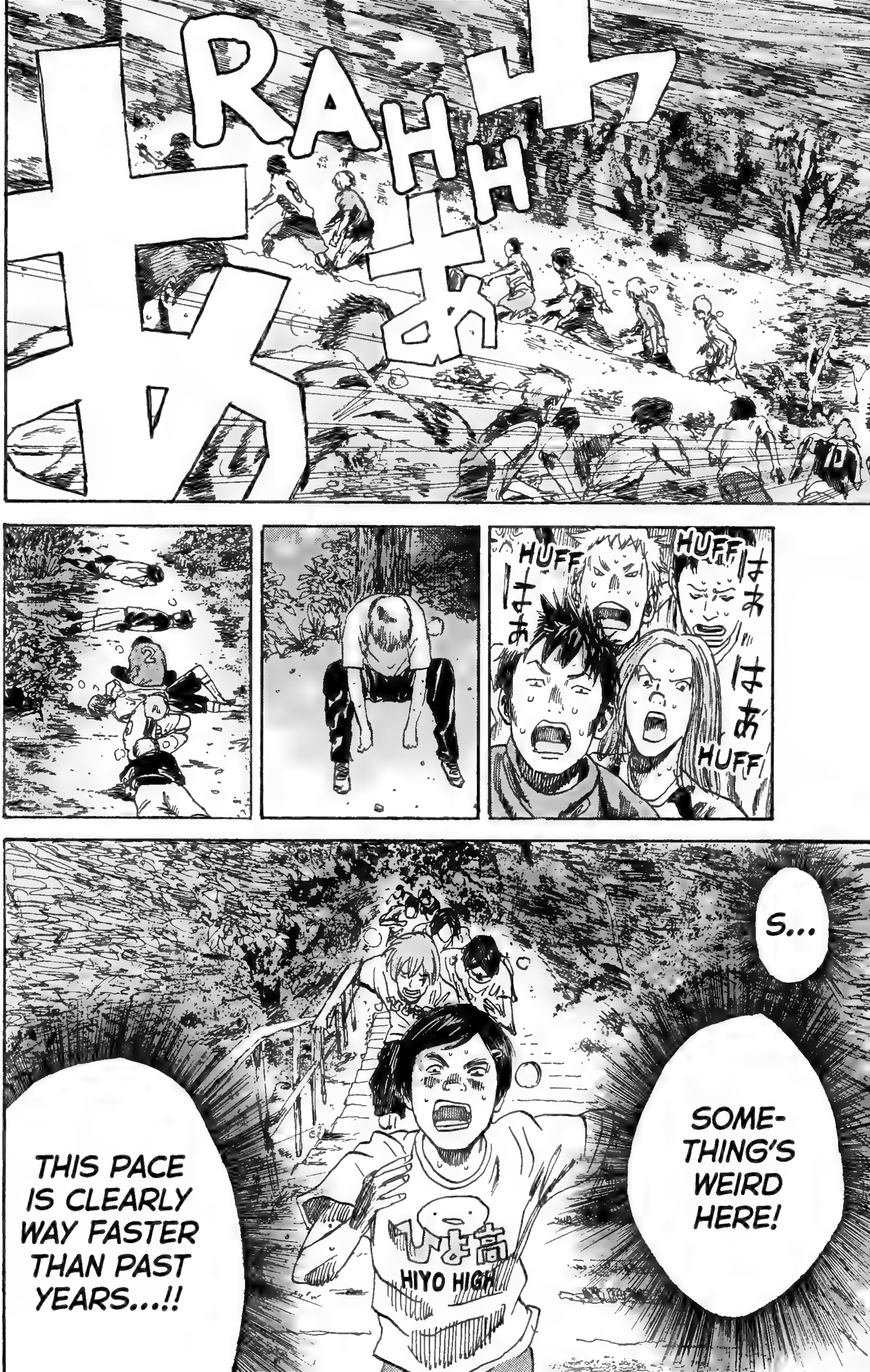

LOOK... ONE OF THEM'S GOT A GAUDY YELLOW JERSEY...
ARE THOSE HIS PAJAMAS?
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, BRUCE LEE? WHAT A JOKE!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THAT'S THEIR NEW ECCENTRIC MEMBER, JIN KAZAMA.
THAT'S HIM?
I DON'T CARE HOW GOOD HE IS, THAT'S PRETTY COCKY...
HE'S GONNA GET CHASTISED BY THE UPPER-CLASSMEN LATER FOR SURE!
I SURE WISH I COULD GET AWAY WITH WHATEVER I WANT...
...
THOSE WHO ARE BOUND BY TRADITION
TMP
TMP
SEI SEKI
!!
I'M SORRY! THAT'S OUR BALL...
HE'S FROM SEISEKI!
HE TALKED TO ME!
OH... IT'S FINE...
SEI

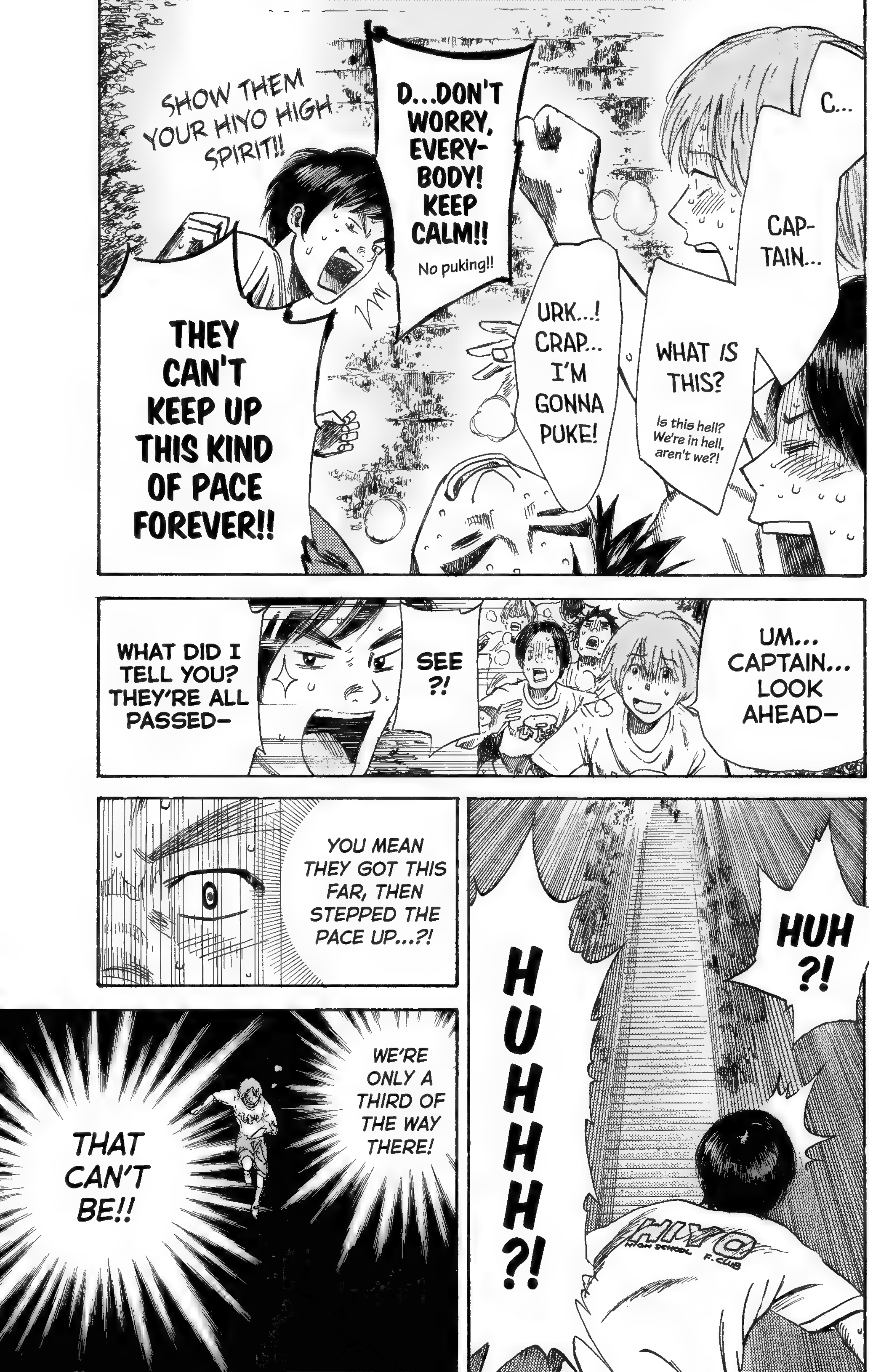

U-UMM...
TH-THANK YOU...
...SO MUCH.
FOR PICKING IT UP.
HUH?
ARE YOU THE MANAGER?
I GET IT...
HUH ?!
BOOM
SEI SEKI
EEP!
I'M—I'M SORRY!!
HUH...?
What are you crying for?
HEY THERE, MANAGER, CAN I ASK YOU TO SNEAK ME MIZUKI-SAN'S AUTOGRAPH?
HAVE HIM MAKE IT OUT TO YUKICHI-KUN!
OH!
IT'S SEISEKI'S MANAGER...
MIZUSHIMA HIGH SCHOOL
HUHHH?!
Well...I can try...

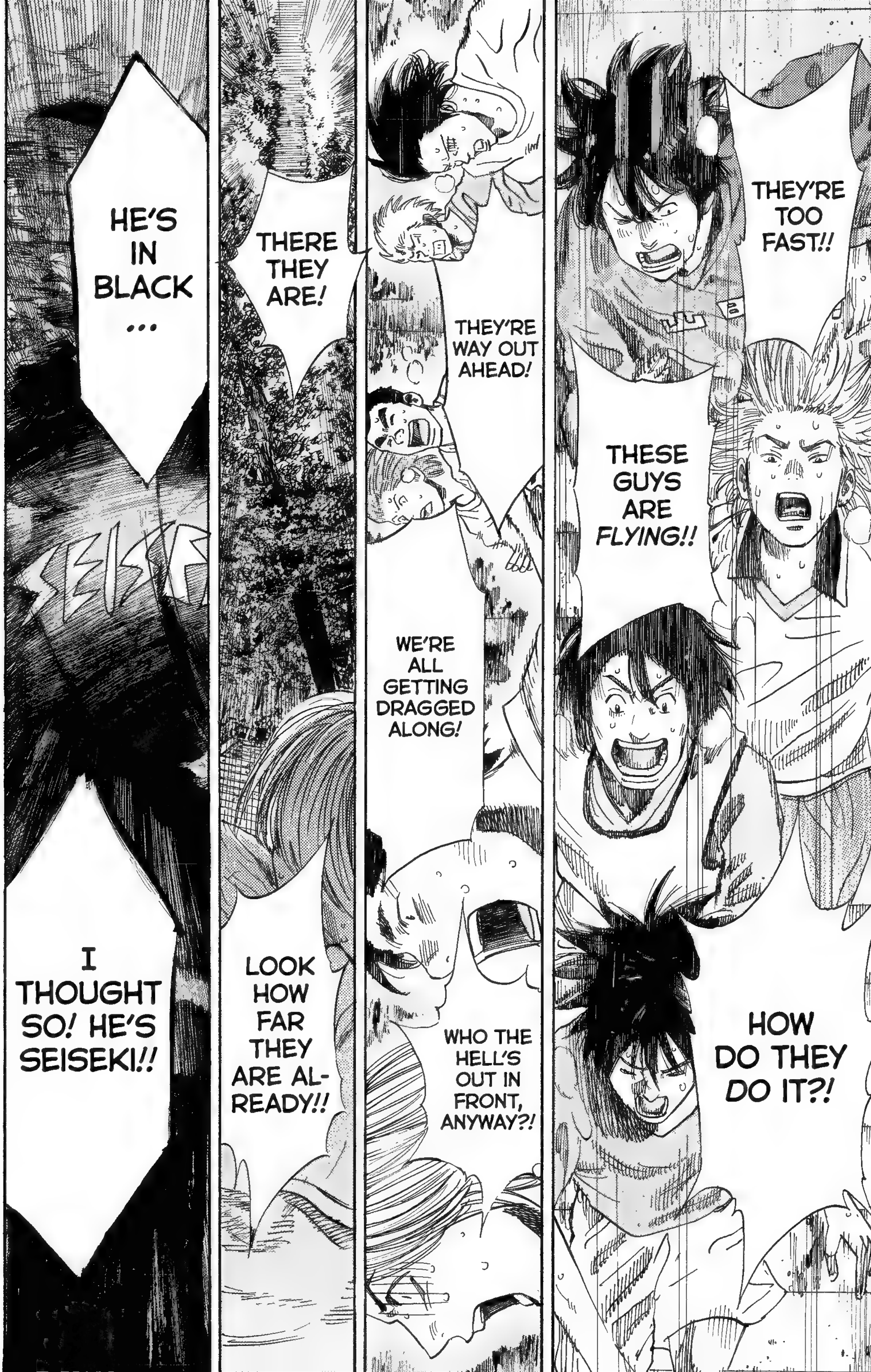

B-BUT, YOU KNOW...
I'M A MEMBER OF THE CLUB...
...NOT THE MANAGER...
CHATTER
PFFT
GYAH HA HA HA!
FOR REAL?!
SEISEKI *TAKES* GUYS LIKE THAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
SEISEKI SURE IS OPEN-HEARTED, HUH?!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

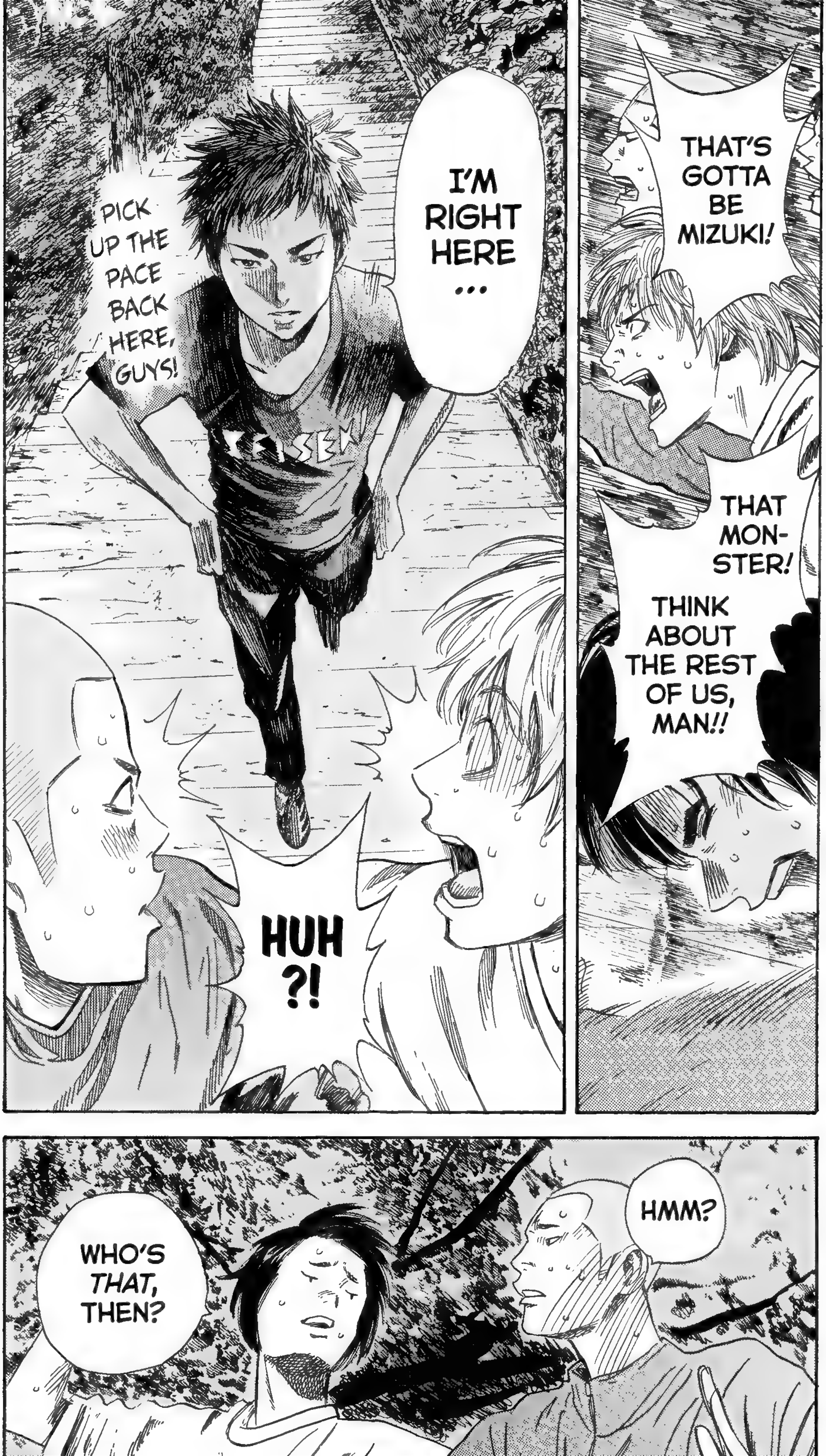

FWIP
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'LL DO MY BEST!!
THUMP
GUH HA HA! THIS KID RULES!
IT SURE IS REASSURING TO KNOW SEISEKI TAKES IN GUYS LIKE YOU!
For us, that is!
THUMP
DO YOUR BEST, MAN!
AH HA HA!
...
...
...
EVERYONE, GATHER AROUND!

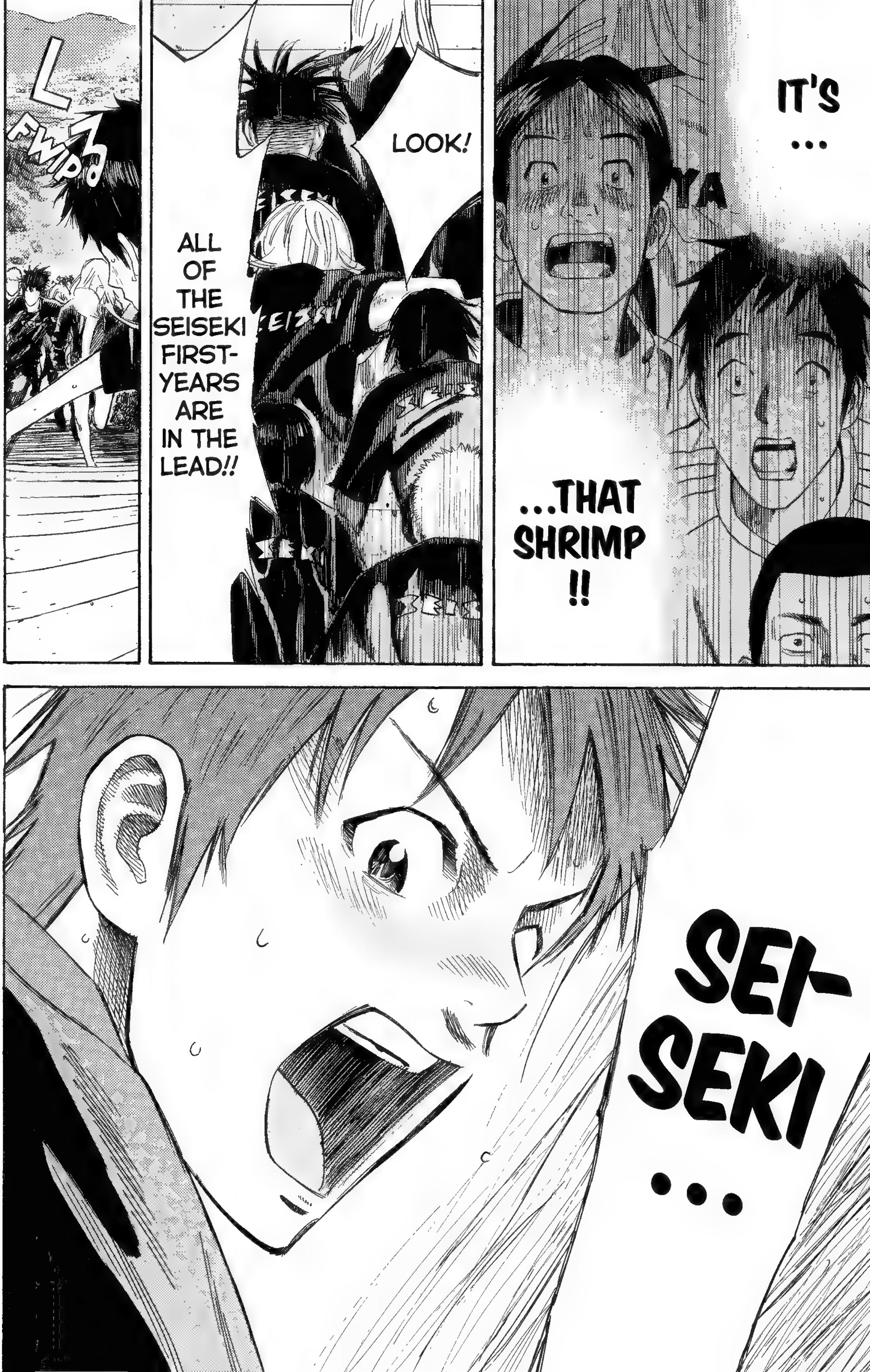

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
THE FIRST DAY OF TRAINING CAMP WILL SOON COMMENCE!
WE'RE... WE'RE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN?
NO WAY...
ひよ高
HIYO HIGH
THAT'S HOW THE YEARLY GOLDEN WEEK TRAINING CAMP *ALWAYS* STARTS.
CAPTAIN, YOUR LEGS ARE SHAKING...
ON MY FIRST TIME I DIDN'T MAKE IT...
TH-THEY'RE SHAKING WITH EXCITEMENT!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
!!
RAHH
AHHH
THE CLIMB'S STARTED!
WH-WHOA!
ALL RIGHT, FIRST-YEARS, CALM DOWN!
FOLLOW ME!!

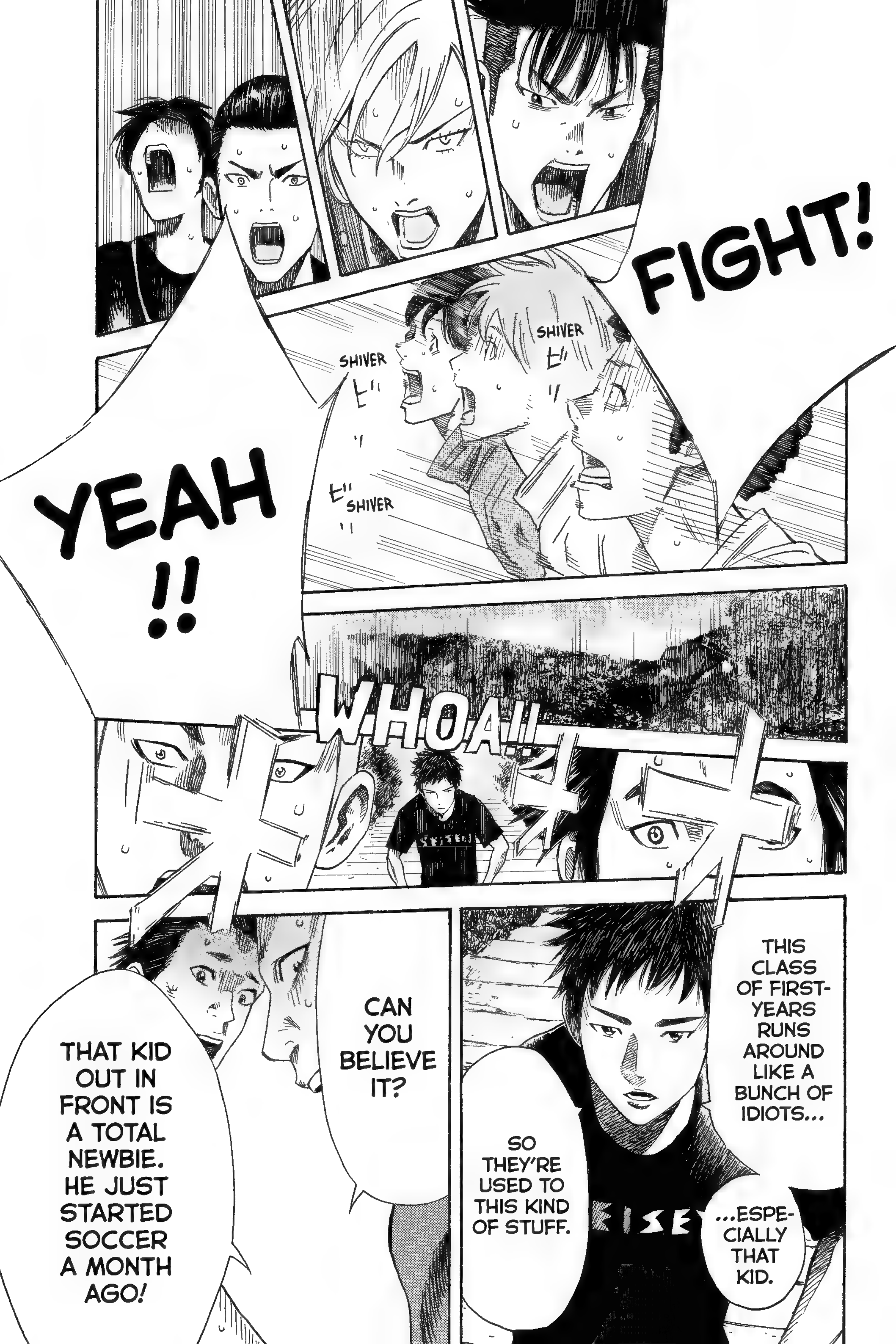

RAHHH
わあー
HUFF
はあ
はあ
HUFF
HUFF
はあ
S...
SOMETHING'S WEIRD HERE!
THIS PACE IS CLEARLY WAY FASTER THAN PAST YEARS...!!
ひよ高
HIYO HIGH

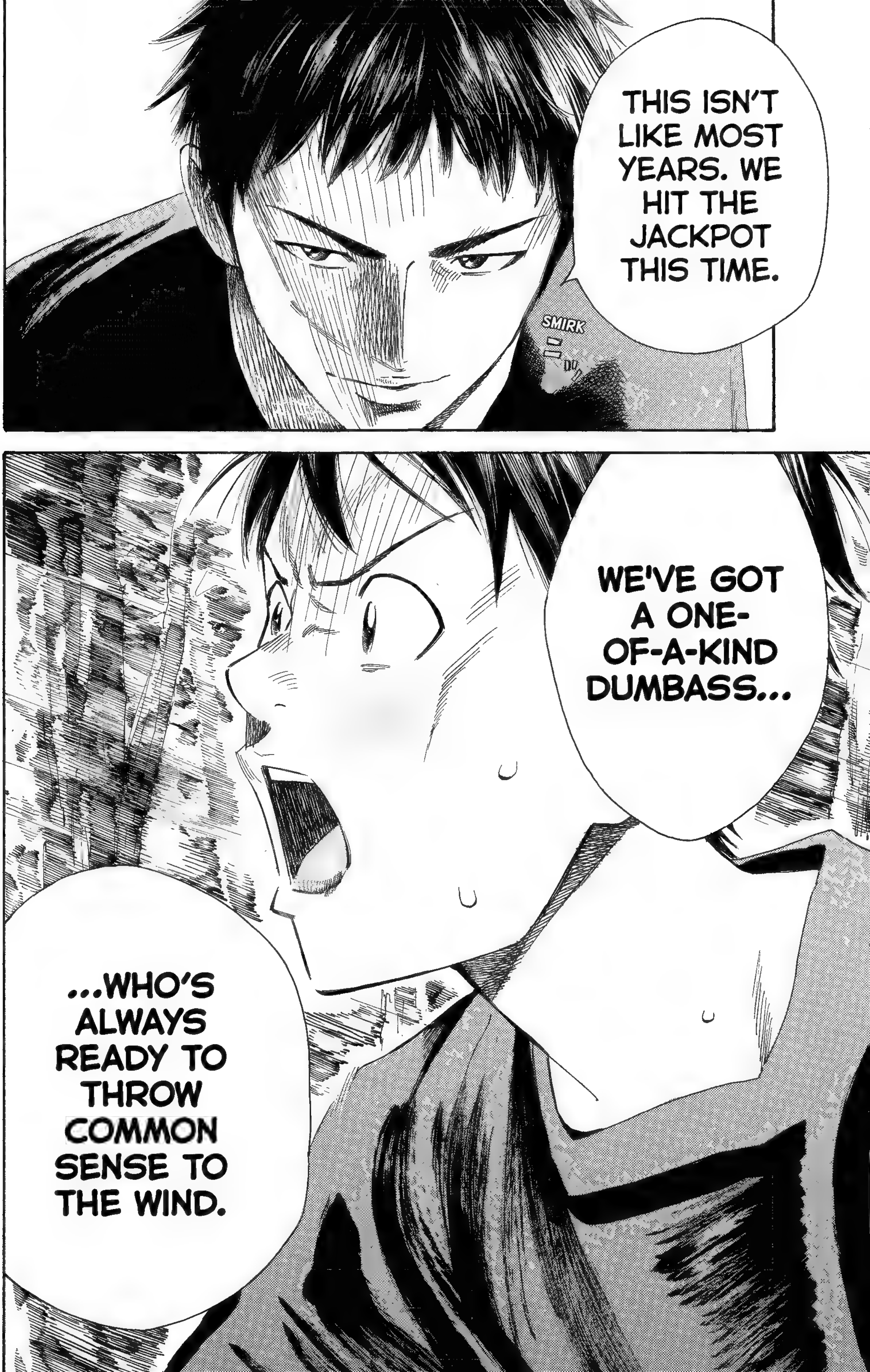

C...
CAP-TAIN...
WHAT *IS* THIS?
Is this hell? We're in hell, aren't we?!
URK...! CRAP... I'M GONNA PUKE!
D...DON'T WORRY, EVERYBODY! KEEP CALM!!
No puking!!
SHOW THEM YOUR HIYO HIGH SPIRIT!!
THEY CAN'T KEEP UP THIS KIND OF PACE FOREVER!!
UM... CAPTAIN... LOOK AHEAD—
SEE?!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THEY'RE ALL PASSED—
HUH?!
HUHHHH?!
HIYO HIGH SCHOOL F.CLUB
YOU MEAN THEY GOT THIS FAR, THEN STEPPED THE PACE UP...?!
WE'RE ONLY A THIRD OF THE WAY THERE!
THAT CAN'T BE!!


THEY'RE TOO FAST!!
THESE GUYS ARE FLYING!!
HOW DO THEY DO IT?!
THEY'RE WAY OUT AHEAD!
WE'RE ALL GETTING DRAGGED ALONG!
WHO THE HELL'S OUT IN FRONT, ANYWAY?!
THERE THEY ARE!
LOOK HOW FAR THEY ARE ALREADY!!
HE'S IN BLACK...
SEISEKI
I THOUGHT SO! HE'S SEISEKI!!

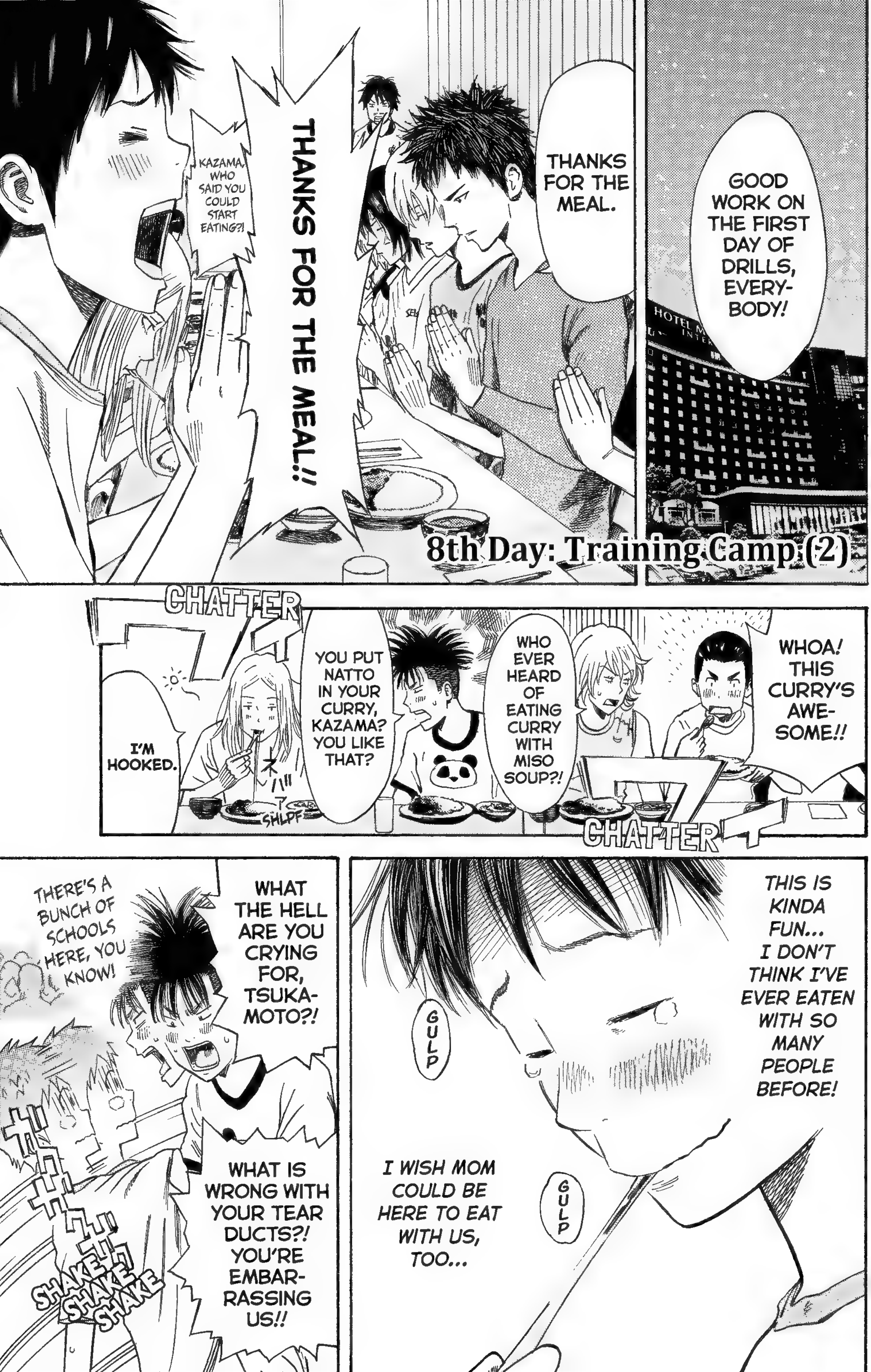

THAT'S GOTTA BE MIZUKI!
THAT MONSTER!
THINK ABOUT THE REST OF US, MAN!!
I'M RIGHT HERE...
PICK UP THE PACE BACK HERE, GUYS!
HUH?!
HMM?
WHO'S *THAT*, THEN?

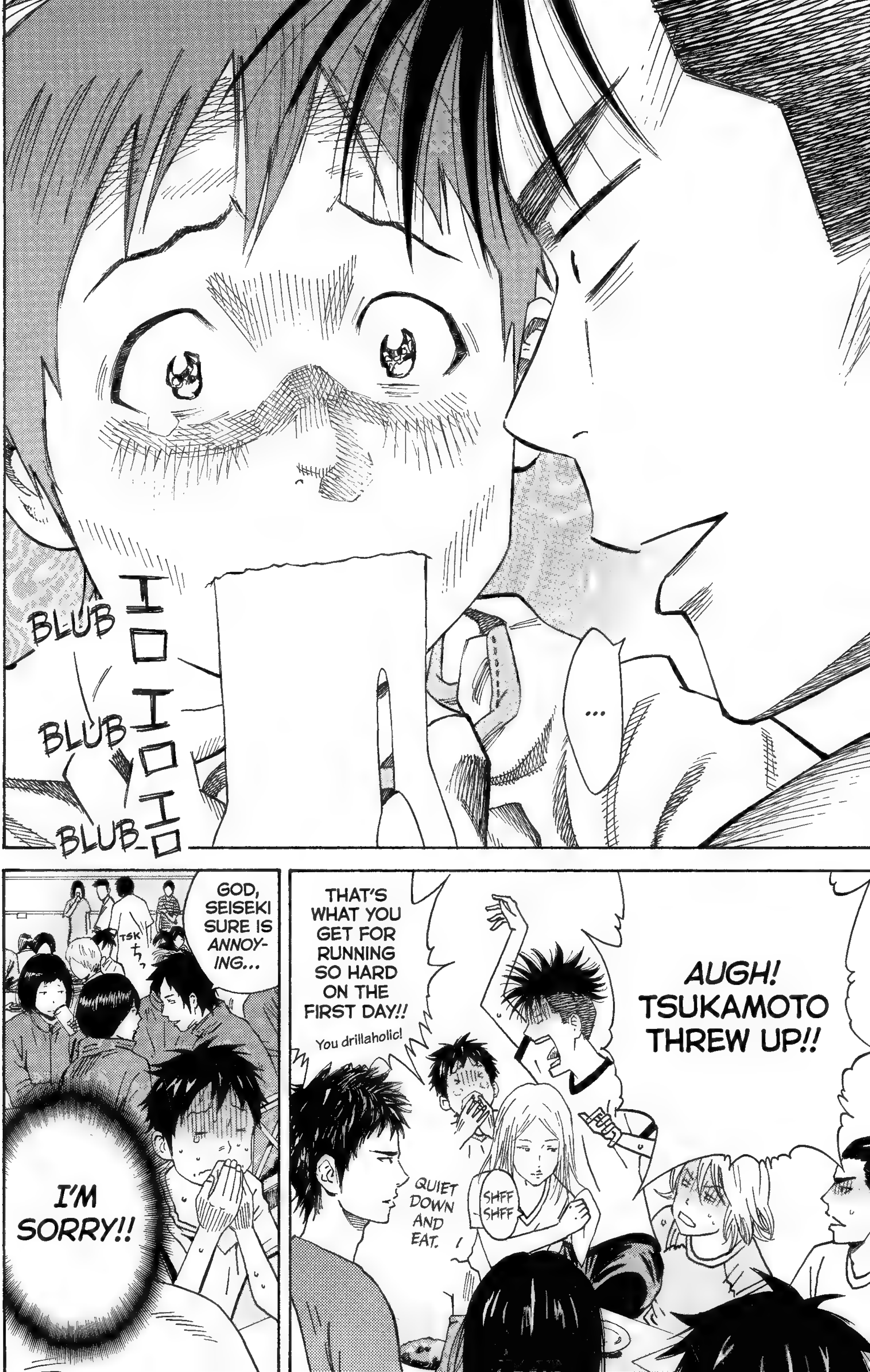

IT'S ...
YA
...THAT SHRIMP !!
LOOK!
ALL OF THE SEISEKI FIRST-YEARS ARE IN THE LEAD!!
FWIP
L
SEI-SEKI ...

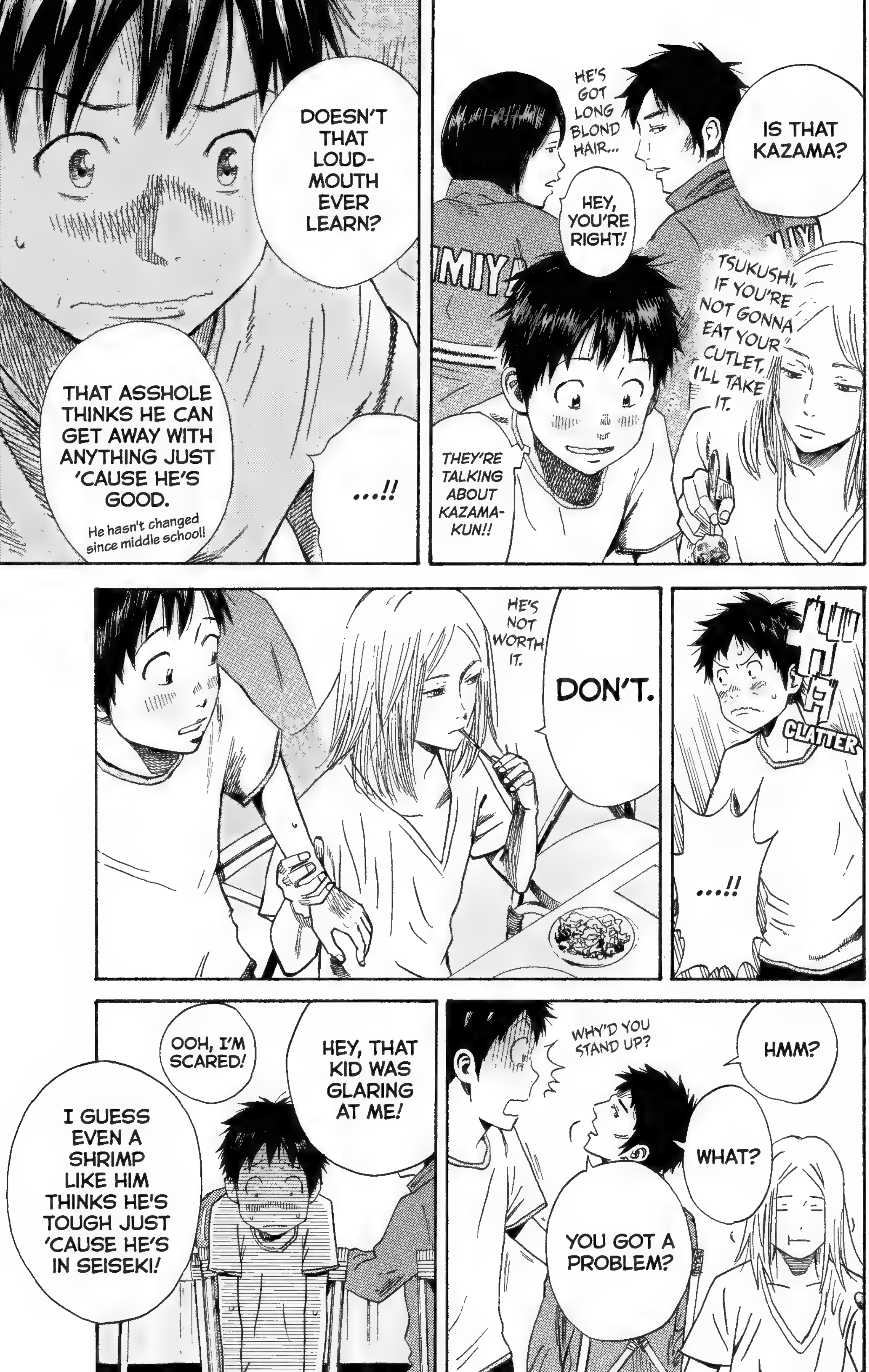

FIGHT!
YEAH!!
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
WHOA!!
THIS CLASS OF FIRST-YEARS RUNS AROUND LIKE A BUNCH OF IDIOTS...
SO THEY'RE USED TO THIS KIND OF STUFF.
...ESPECIALLY THAT KID.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
THAT KID OUT IN FRONT IS A TOTAL NEWBIE. HE JUST STARTED SOCCER A MONTH AGO!

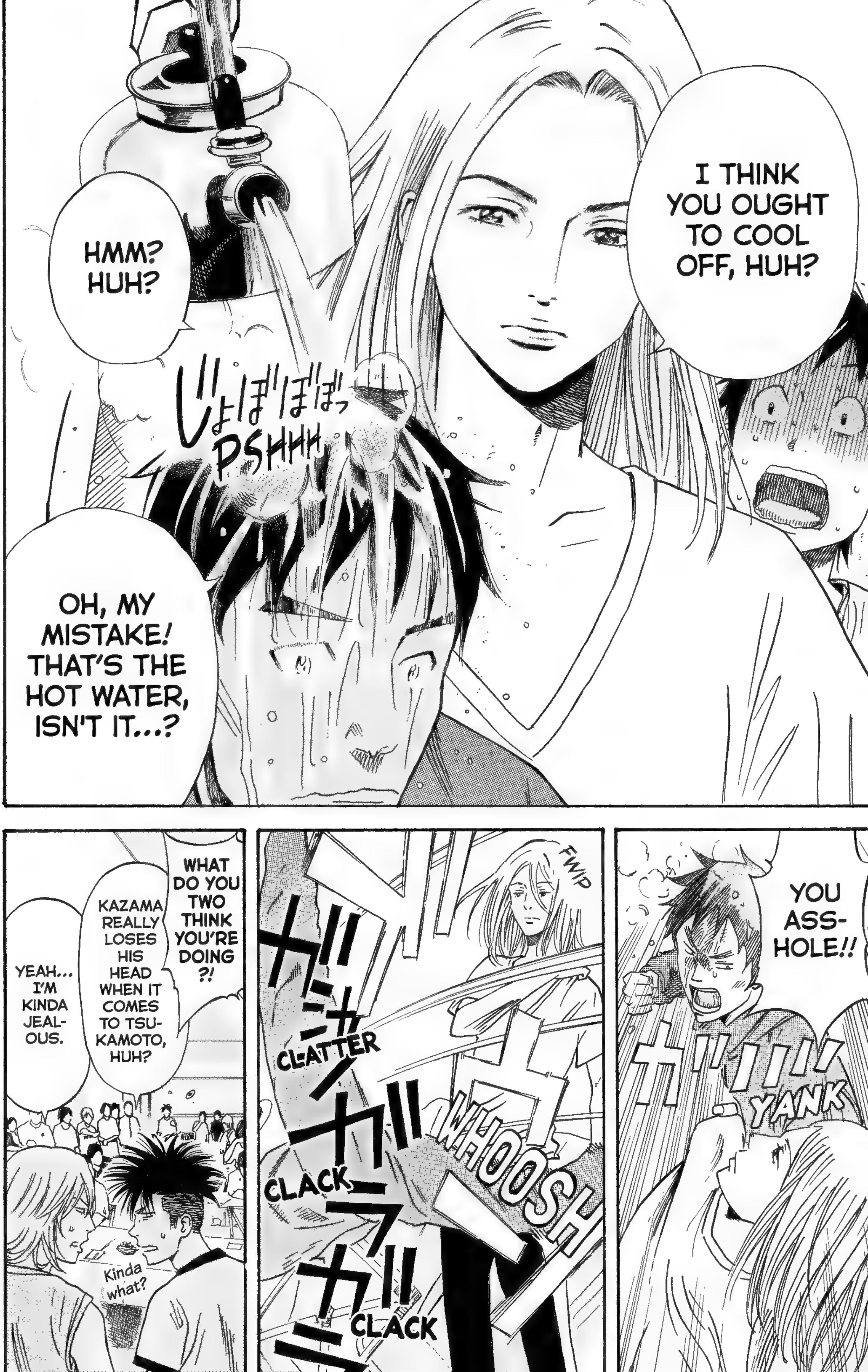

THIS ISN'T LIKE MOST YEARS. WE HIT THE JACKPOT THIS TIME.
SMIRK
WE'VE GOT A ONE-OF-A-KIND DUMBASS...
...WHO'S ALWAYS READY TO THROW COMMON SENSE TO THE WIND.

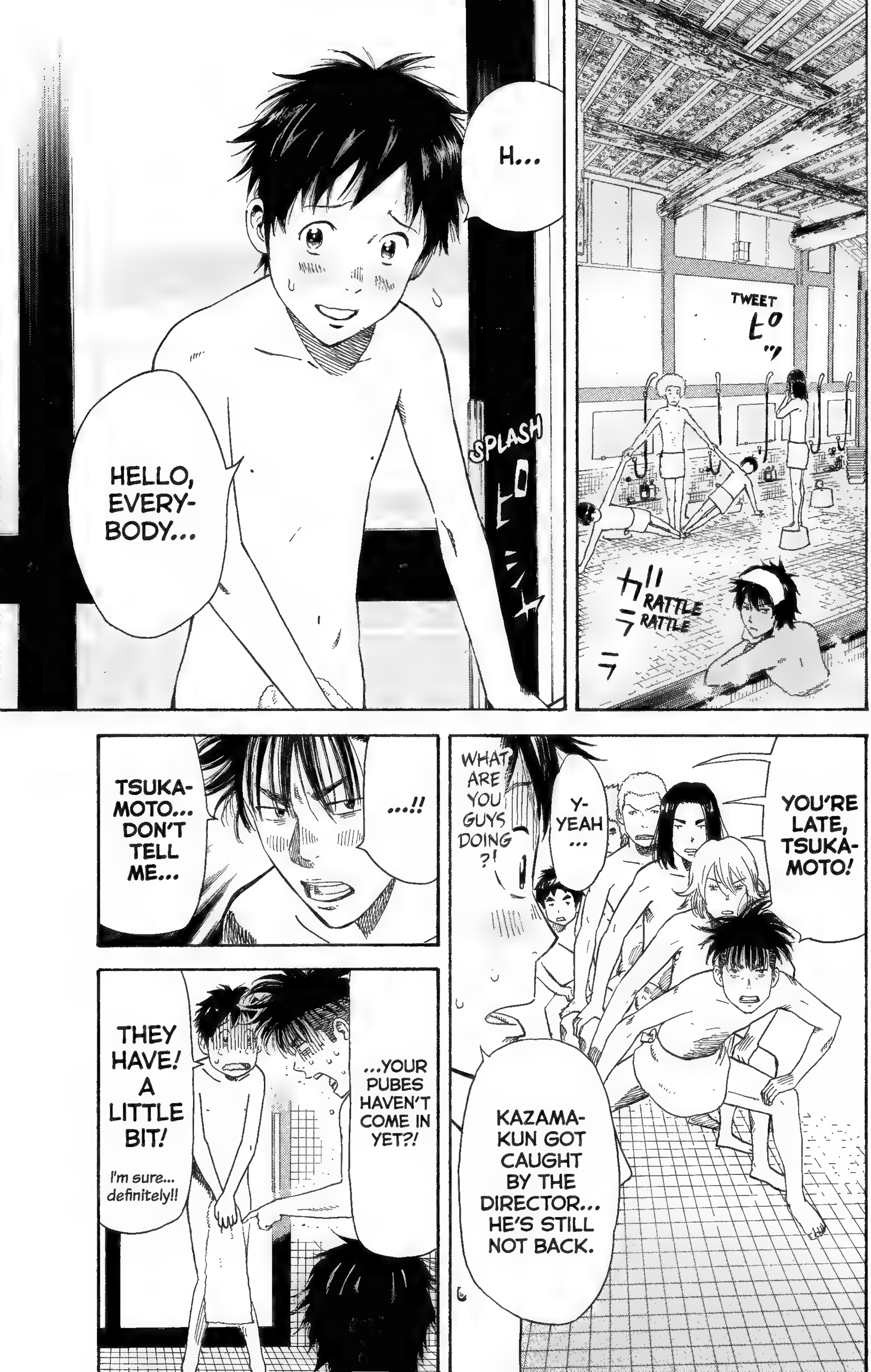
8th Day: Training Camp (2)

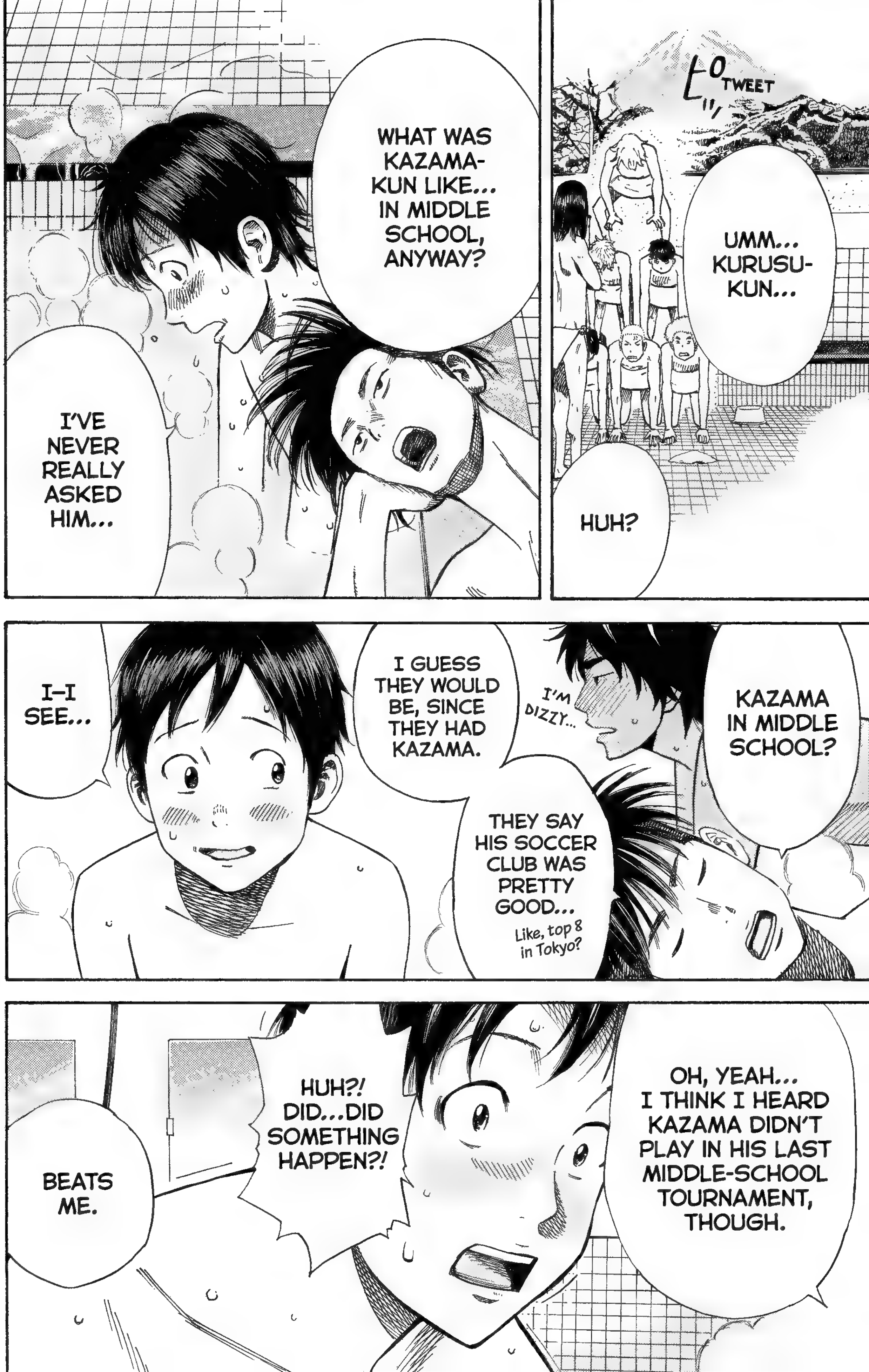

GOOD WORK ON THE FIRST DAY OF DRILLS, EVERYBODY!
HOTEL M
INTER
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!!
KAZAMA, WHO SAID YOU COULD START EATING?!
CHATTER
WHOA! THIS CURRY'S AWESOME!!
WHO EVER HEARD OF EATING CURRY WITH MISO SOUP?!
YOU PUT NATTO IN YOUR CURRY, KAZAMA? YOU LIKE THAT?
ネバァ
SHLPF
I'M HOOKED.
CHATTER
THIS IS KINDA FUN... I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER EATEN WITH SO MANY PEOPLE BEFORE!
GULP
GULP
I WISH MOM COULD BE HERE TO EAT WITH US, TOO...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU CRYING FOR, TSUKAMOTO?!
THERE'S A BUNCH OF SCHOOLS HERE, YOU KNOW!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR TEAR DUCTS?! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING US!!
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

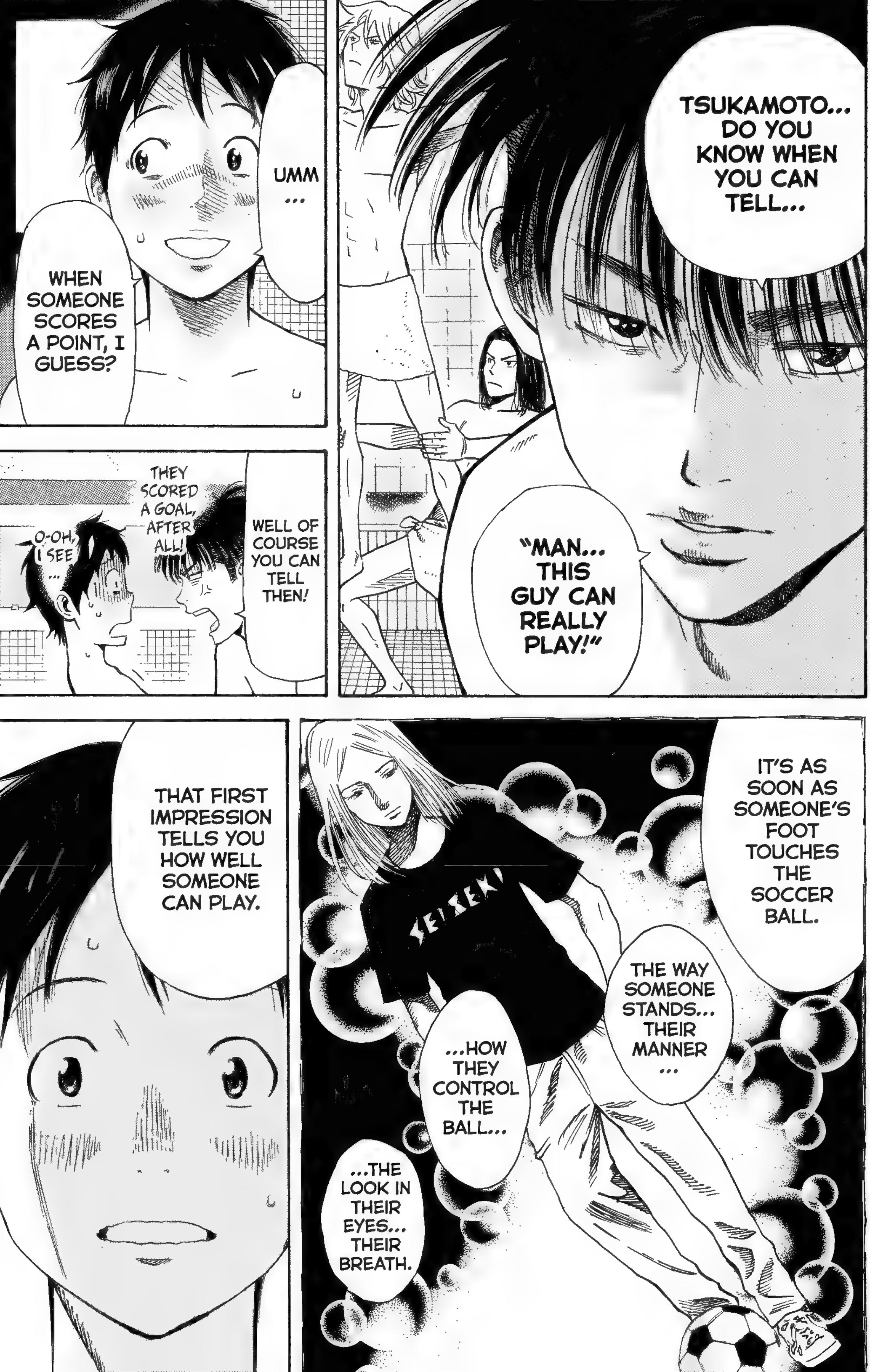

エロ
BLUB
エロ
BLUB
エロ
BLUB
...
AUGH! TSUKAMOTO THREW UP!!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR RUNNING SO HARD ON THE FIRST DAY!!
You drillaholic!
QUIET DOWN AND EAT.
SHFF SHFF
GOD, SEISEKI SURE IS ANNOYING...
TSK ちっ
I'M SORRY!!

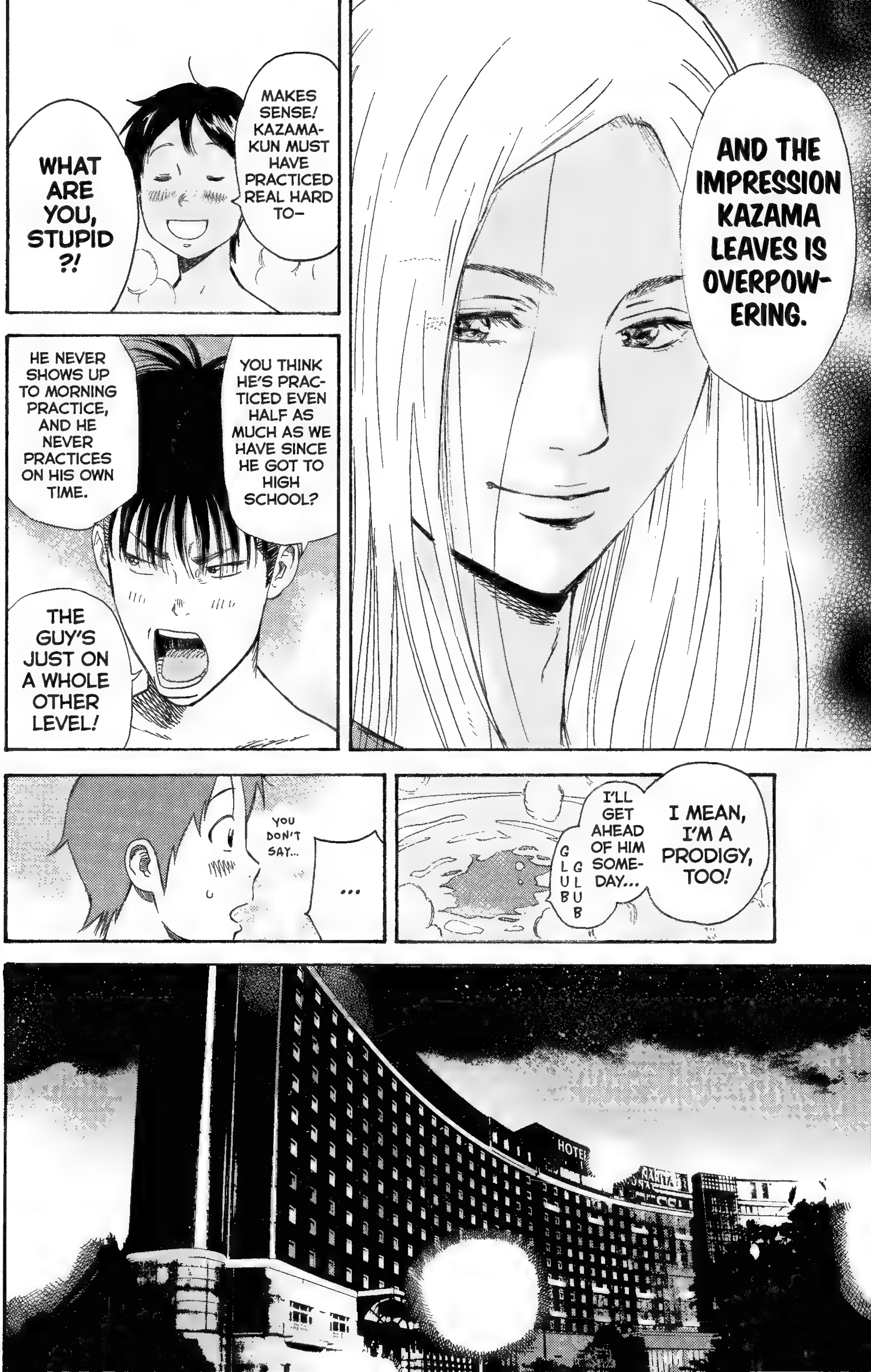

IS THAT KAZAMA?
HE'S GOT LONG BLOND HAIR...
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT!
TSUKUSHI, IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA EAT YOUR CUTLET, I'LL TAKE IT.
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT KAZAMA-KUN!!
DOESN'T THAT LOUD-MOUTH EVER LEARN?
THAT ASSHOLE THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING JUST 'CAUSE HE'S GOOD.
He hasn't changed since middle school!
...!!
CLATTER
...!!
DON'T.
HE'S NOT WORTH IT.
HMM?
WHY'D YOU STAND UP?
WHAT?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
HEY, THAT KID WAS GLARING AT ME!
OOH, I'M SCARED!
I GUESS EVEN A SHRIMP LIKE HIM THINKS HE'S TOUGH JUST 'CAUSE HE'S IN SEISEKI!

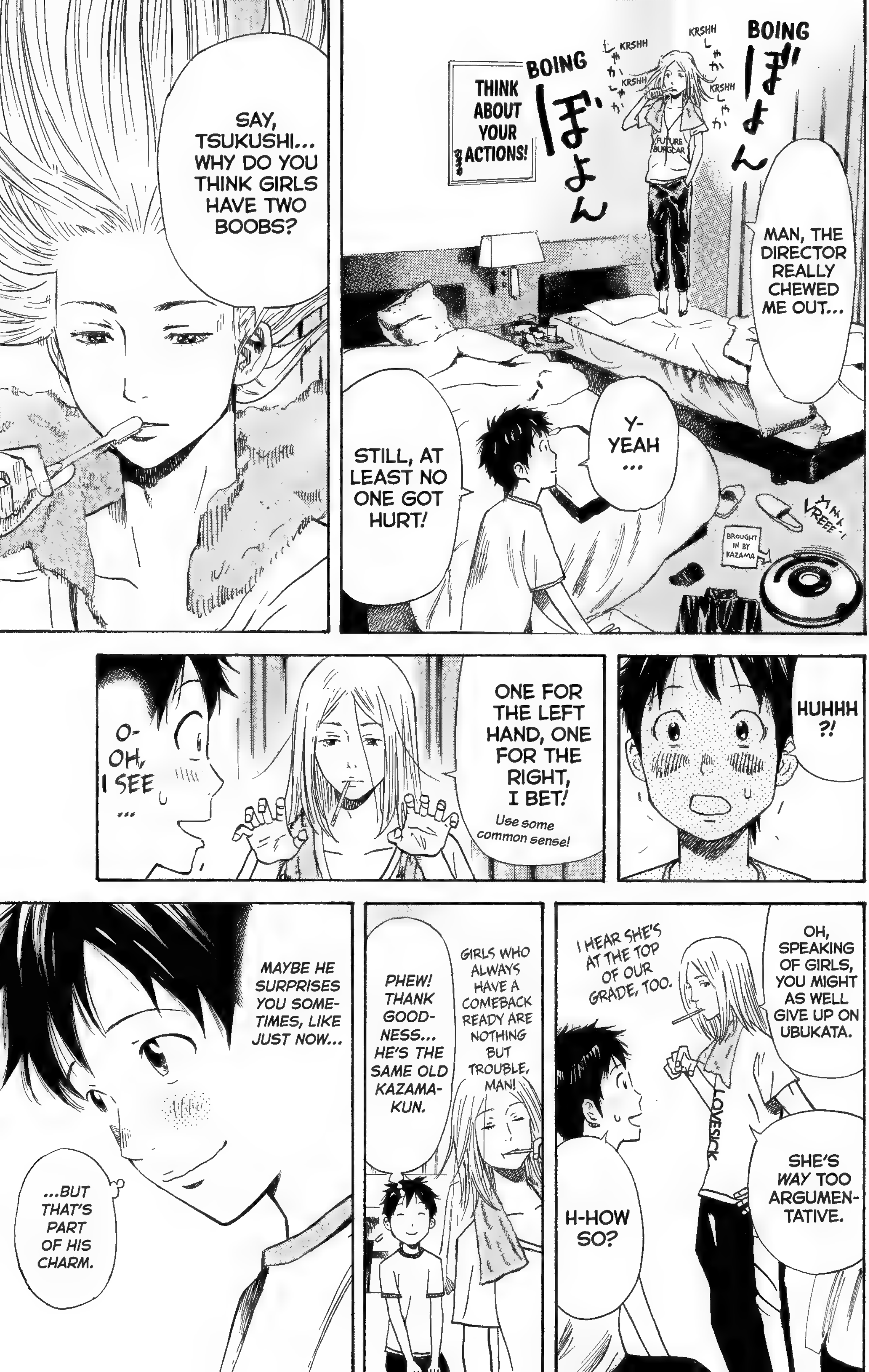

I THINK YOU OUGHT TO COOL OFF, HUH?
HMM? HUH?
じょぼぼぼっ
PSHHH
OH, MY MISTAKE! THAT'S THE HOT WATER, ISN'T IT...?
YOU ASSHOLE!!
YANK
FWIP
CLATTER
WHOOSH
CLACK
CLACK
WHAT DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
KAZAMA REALLY LOSES HIS HEAD WHEN IT COMES TO TSUKAMOTO, HUH?
YEAH... I'M KINDA JEALOUS.
Kinda what?

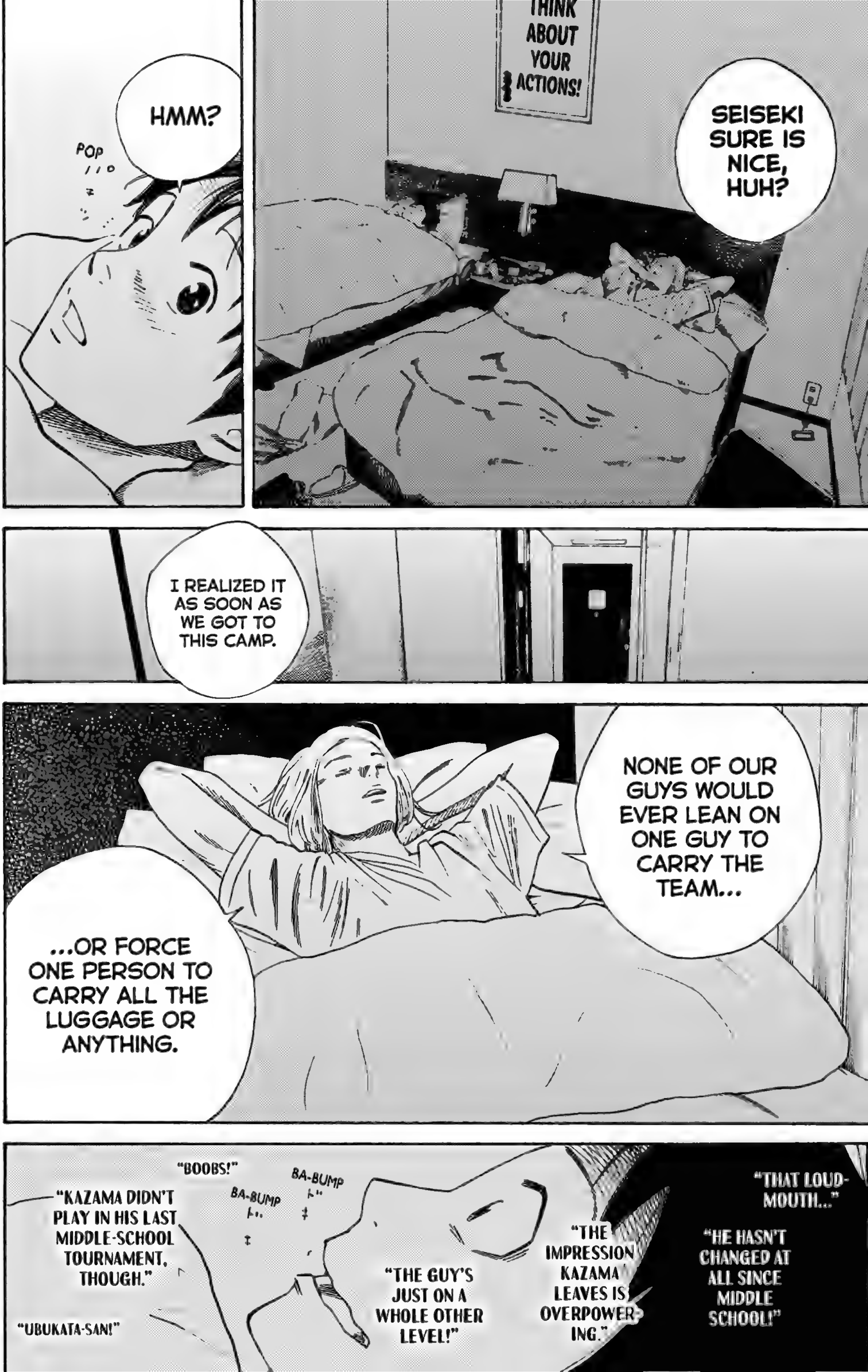

TWEET
ピッ
ガラララ
RATTLE RATTLE
H...
HELLO, EVERYBODY...
SPLASH
YOU'RE LATE, TSUKAMOTO!
Y-YEAH...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!
KAZAMA-KUN GOT CAUGHT BY THE DIRECTOR... HE'S STILL NOT BACK.
...!!
TSUKAMOTO... DON'T TELL ME...
...YOUR PUBES HAVEN'T COME IN YET?!
THEY HAVE! A LITTLE BIT!
I'm sure... definitely!!

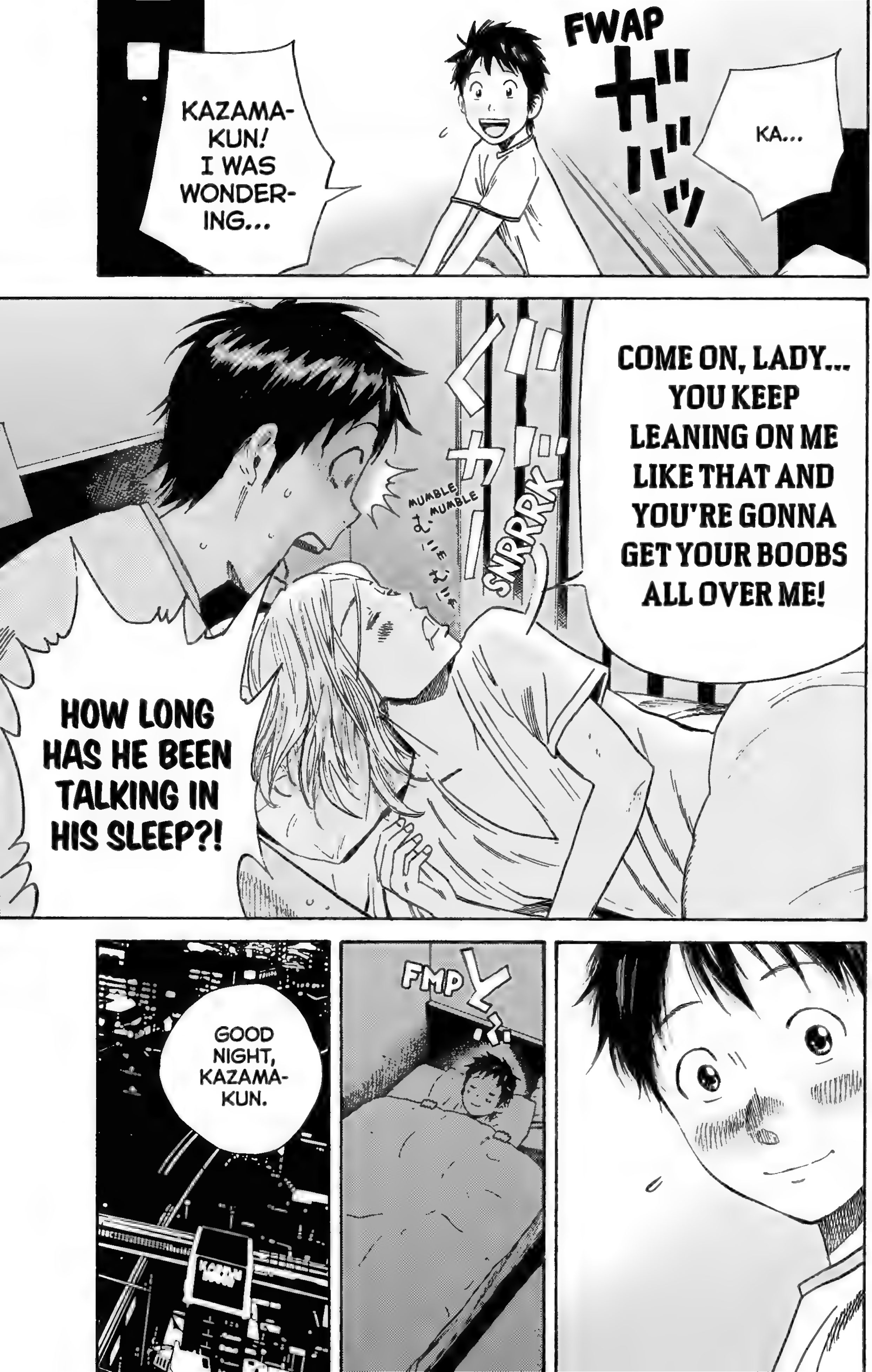

TWEET
UMM... KURUSU-KUN...
HUH?
WHAT WAS KAZAMA-KUN LIKE... IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, ANYWAY?
I'VE NEVER REALLY ASKED HIM...
KAZAMA IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
THEY SAY HIS SOCCER CLUB WAS PRETTY GOOD...
Like, top 8 in Tokyo?
I'M DIZZY...
I GUESS THEY WOULD BE, SINCE THEY HAD KAZAMA.
I–I SEE...
OH, YEAH... I THINK I HEARD KAZAMA DIDN'T PLAY IN HIS LAST MIDDLE-SCHOOL TOURNAMENT, THOUGH.
HUH?! DID...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?!
BEATS ME.

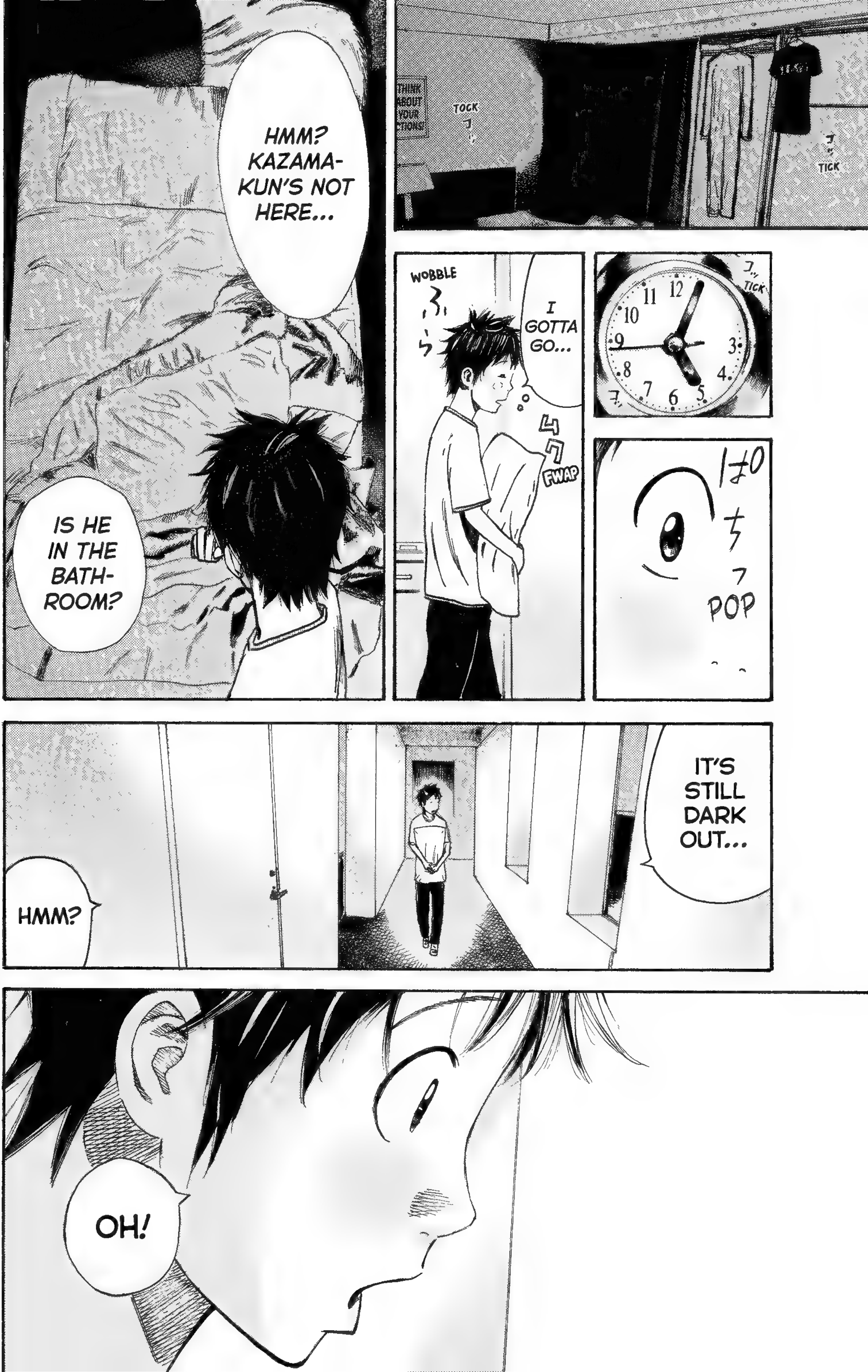

TSUKAMOTO... DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU CAN TELL...
UMM ...
WHEN SOMEONE SCORES A POINT, I GUESS?
WELL OF COURSE YOU CAN TELL THEN!
THEY SCORED A GOAL, AFTER ALL!
O-OH, I SEE ...
"MAN... THIS GUY CAN REALLY PLAY!"
IT'S AS SOON AS SOMEONE'S FOOT TOUCHES THE SOCCER BALL.
THE WAY SOMEONE STANDS... THEIR MANNER ...
...HOW THEY CONTROL THE BALL...
...THE LOOK IN THEIR EYES... THEIR BREATH.
THAT FIRST IMPRESSION TELLS YOU HOW WELL SOMEONE CAN PLAY.
SEISEKI

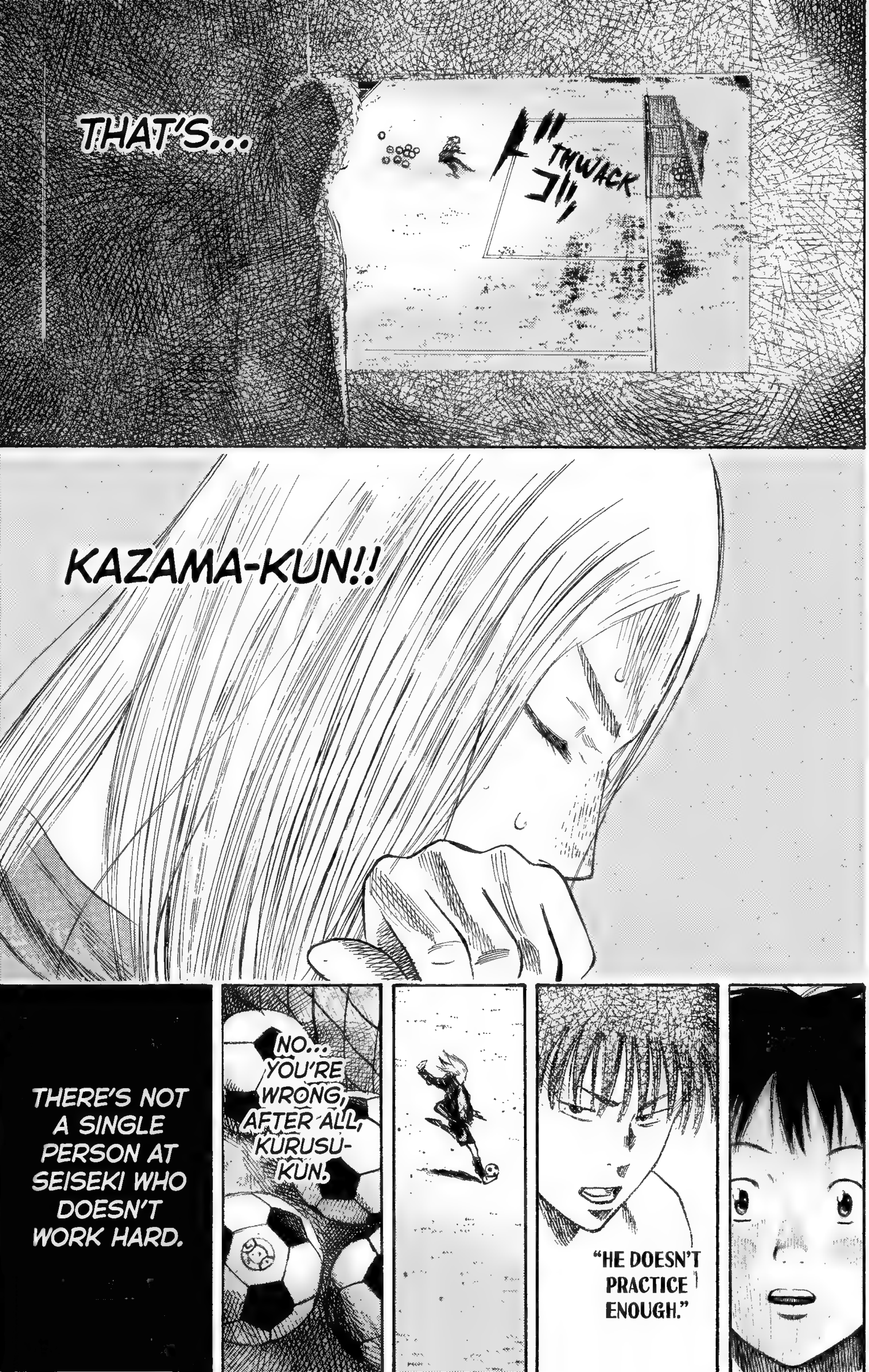

AND THE IMPRESSION KAZAMA LEAVES IS OVERPOWERING.
MAKES SENSE! KAZAMA-KUN MUST HAVE PRACTICED REAL HARD TO–
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!
YOU THINK HE'S PRACTICED EVEN HALF AS MUCH AS WE HAVE SINCE HE GOT TO HIGH SCHOOL?
HE NEVER SHOWS UP TO MORNING PRACTICE, AND HE NEVER PRACTICES ON HIS OWN TIME.
THE GUY'S JUST ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL!
I MEAN, I'M A PRODIGY, TOO!
I'LL GET AHEAD OF HIM SOMEDAY...
GLUB GLUB
...
YOU DON'T SAY...
HOTEL
NARITA

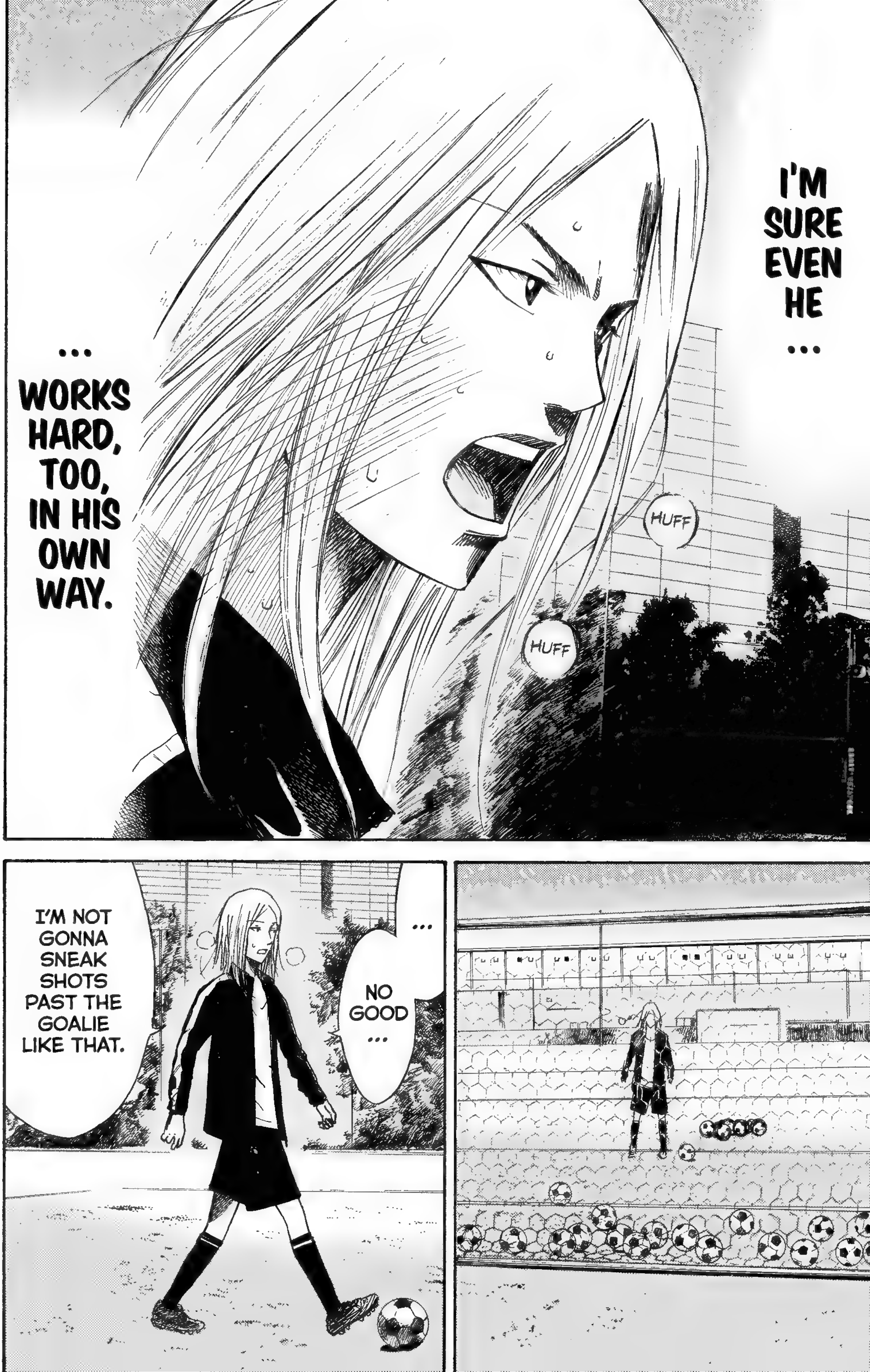

BOING ぼよん
KRSHH しゃかしゃか
KRSHH しゃかしゃか
KRSHH
KRSHH しゃかしゃか
BOING ぼよん
THINK ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS!
FUTURE BURGLAR
MAN, THE DIRECTOR REALLY CHEWED ME OUT...
Y-YEAH...
STILL, AT LEAST NO ONE GOT HURT!
VREEE--
BROUGHT IN BY KAZAMA
SAY, TSUKUSHI... WHY DO YOU THINK GIRLS HAVE TWO BOOBS?
HUHHH?!
ONE FOR THE LEFT HAND, ONE FOR THE RIGHT, I BET!
Use some common sense!
O-OH, I SEE...
OH, SPEAKING OF GIRLS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP ON UBUKATA.
LOVESICK
H-HOW SO?
SHE'S WAY TOO ARGUMENTATIVE.
I HEAR SHE'S AT THE TOP OF OUR GRADE, TOO.
GIRLS WHO ALWAYS HAVE A COMEBACK READY ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, MAN!
PHEW! THANK GOODNESS... HE'S THE SAME OLD KAZAMA-KUN.
MAYBE HE SURPRISES YOU SOMETIMES, LIKE JUST NOW...
...BUT THAT'S PART OF HIS CHARM.

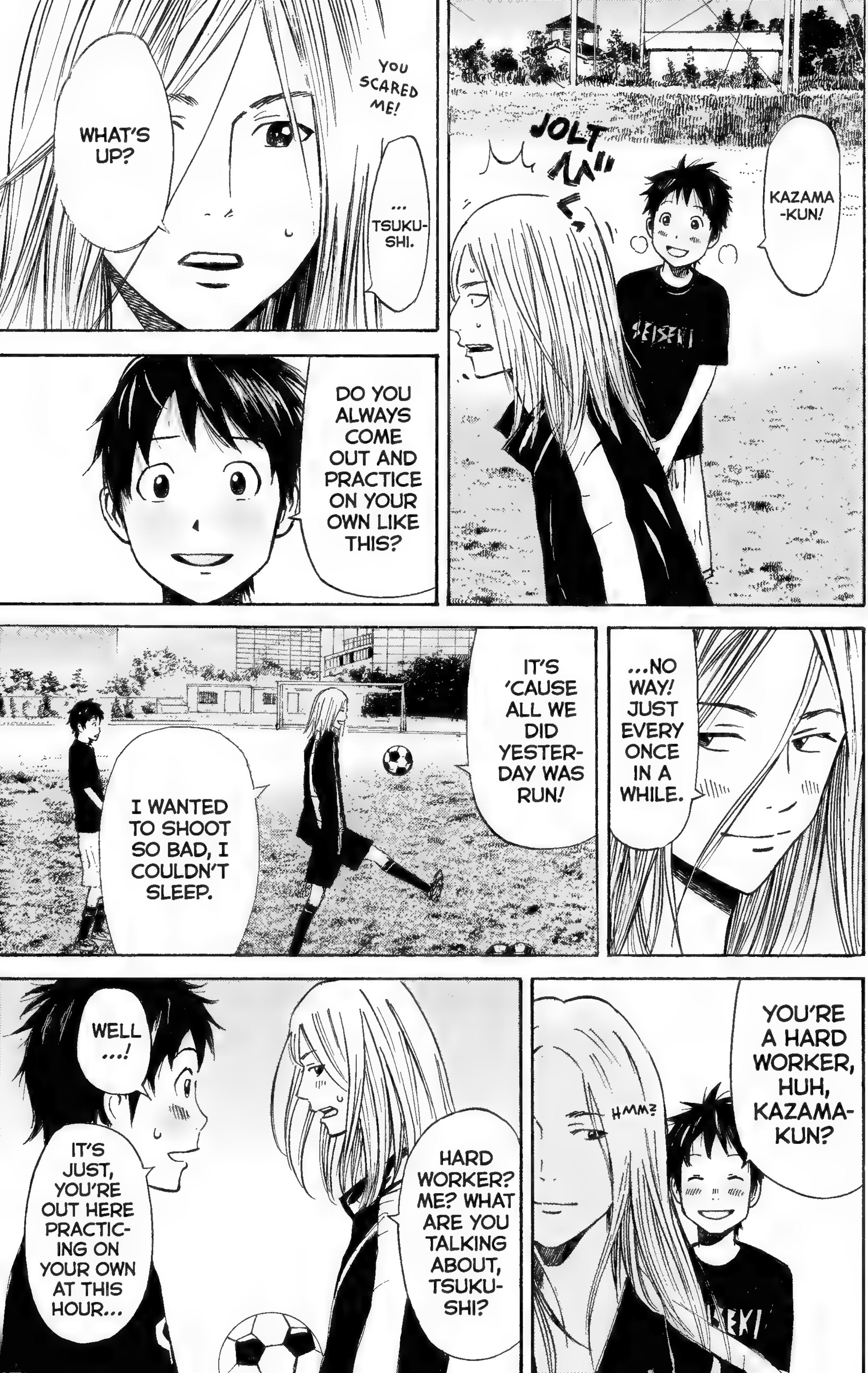

THINK ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS!
SEISEKI SURE IS NICE, HUH?
HMM?
POP
I REALIZED IT AS SOON AS WE GOT TO THIS CAMP.
NONE OF OUR GUYS WOULD EVER LEAN ON ONE GUY TO CARRY THE TEAM...
...OR FORCE ONE PERSON TO CARRY ALL THE LUGGAGE OR ANYTHING.
"THAT LOUD-MOUTH..."
"HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL!"
"THE IMPRESSION KAZAMA LEAVES IS OVERPOWERING."
"THE GUY'S JUST ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL!"
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
"BOOBS!"
"KAZAMA DIDN'T PLAY IN HIS LAST MIDDLE-SCHOOL TOURNAMENT, THOUGH."
"UBUKATA-SAN!"

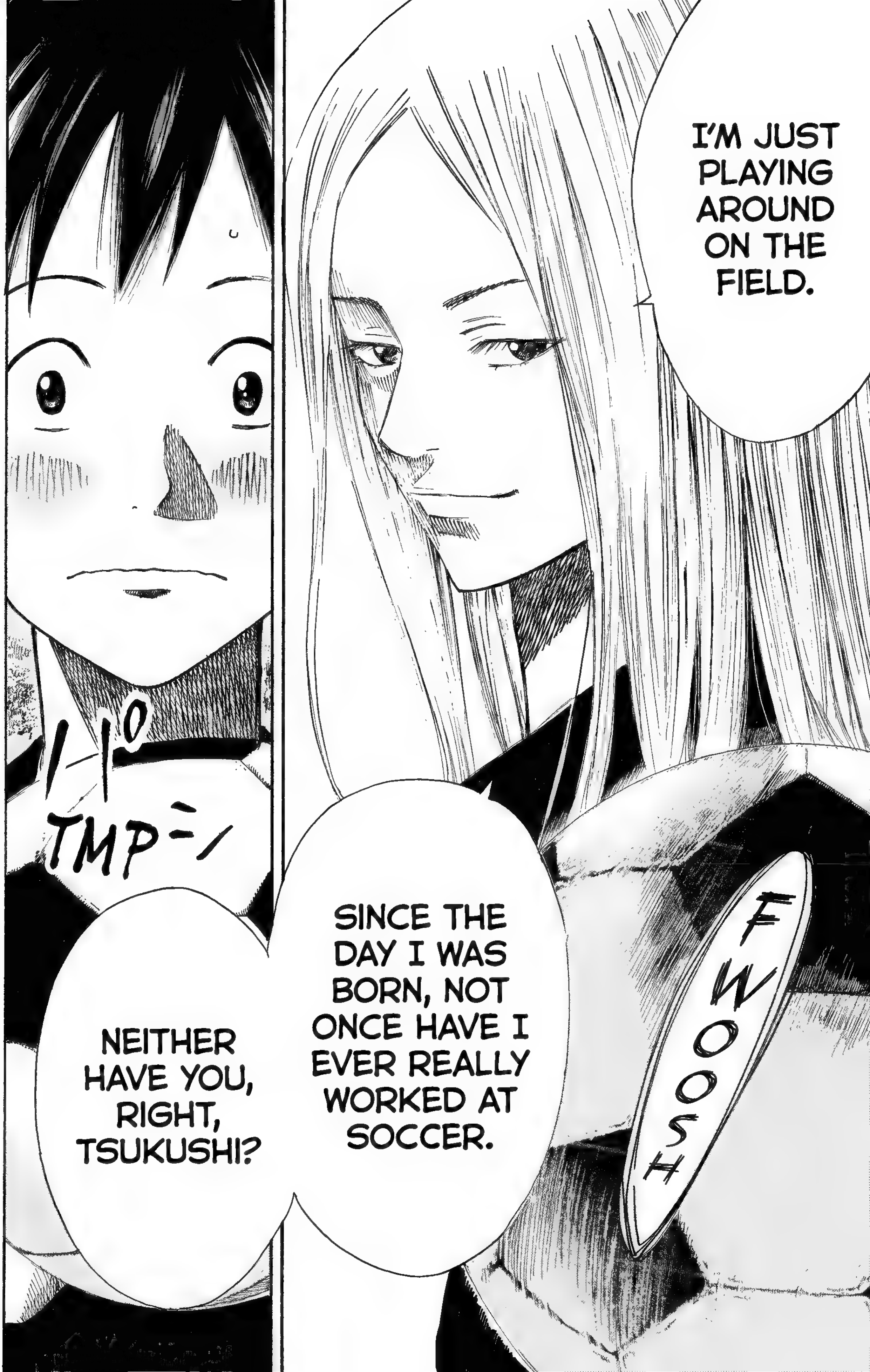

KAZAMA-KUN! I WAS WONDERING...
FWAP
ガバッ
KA...
COME ON, LADY... YOU KEEP LEANING ON ME LIKE THAT AND YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR BOOBS ALL OVER ME!
SNRRRK
MUMBLE MUMBLE
むにゃむにゃ
HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN TALKING IN HIS SLEEP?!
FMP
GOOD NIGHT, KAZAMA-KUN.

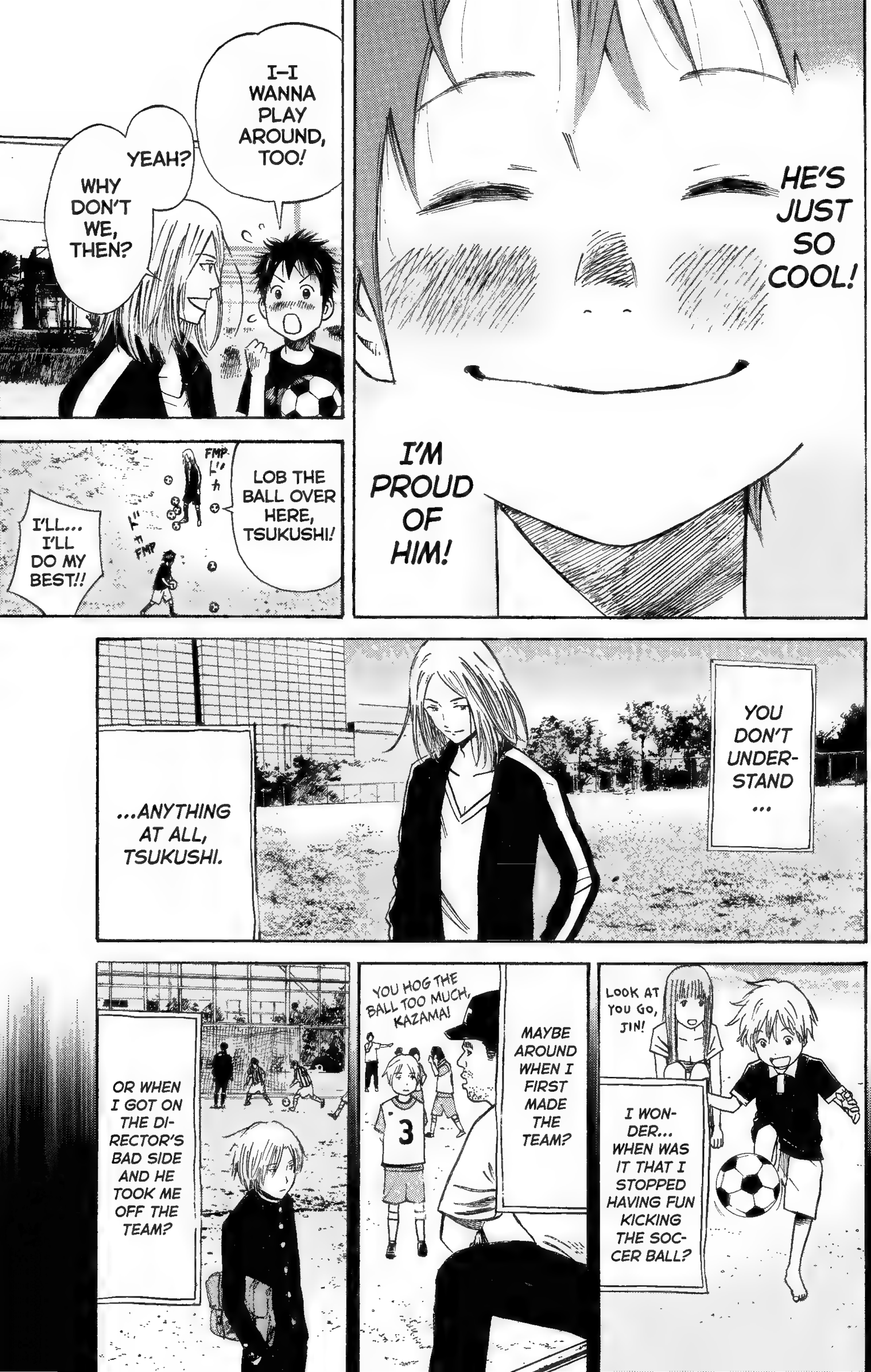

THINK ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS!
TOCK
TICK
TICK
WOBBLE
I GOTTA GO...
FWAP
POP
HMM? KAZAMA-KUN'S NOT HERE...
IS HE IN THE BATHROOM?
IT'S STILL DARK OUT...
HMM?
OH!

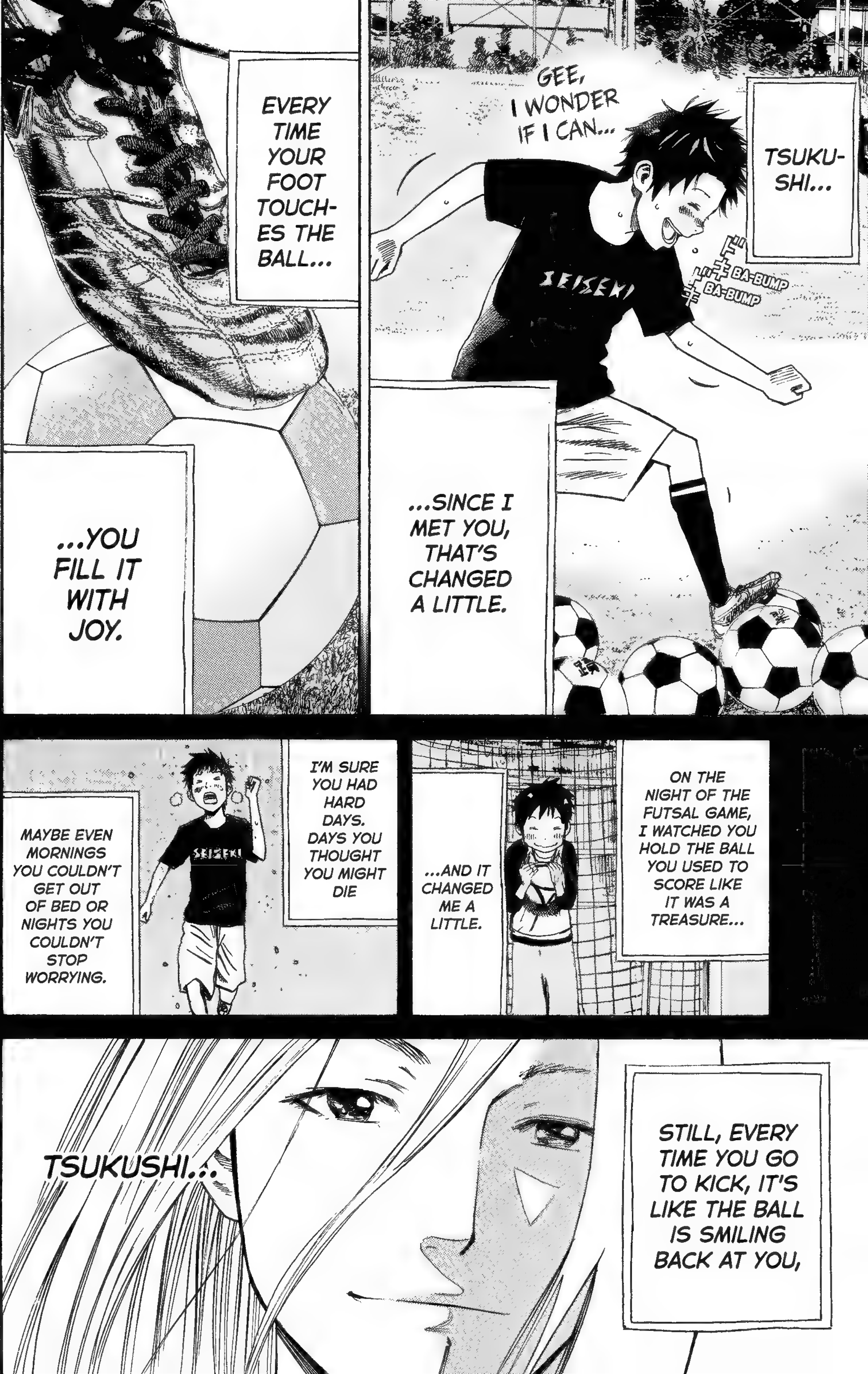

THAT'S...
ドゴ
THWACK
KAZAMA-KUN!!
"HE DOESN'T PRACTICE ENOUGH."
NO... YOU'RE WRONG, AFTER ALL, KURUSU-KUN.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON AT SEISEKI WHO DOESN'T WORK HARD.

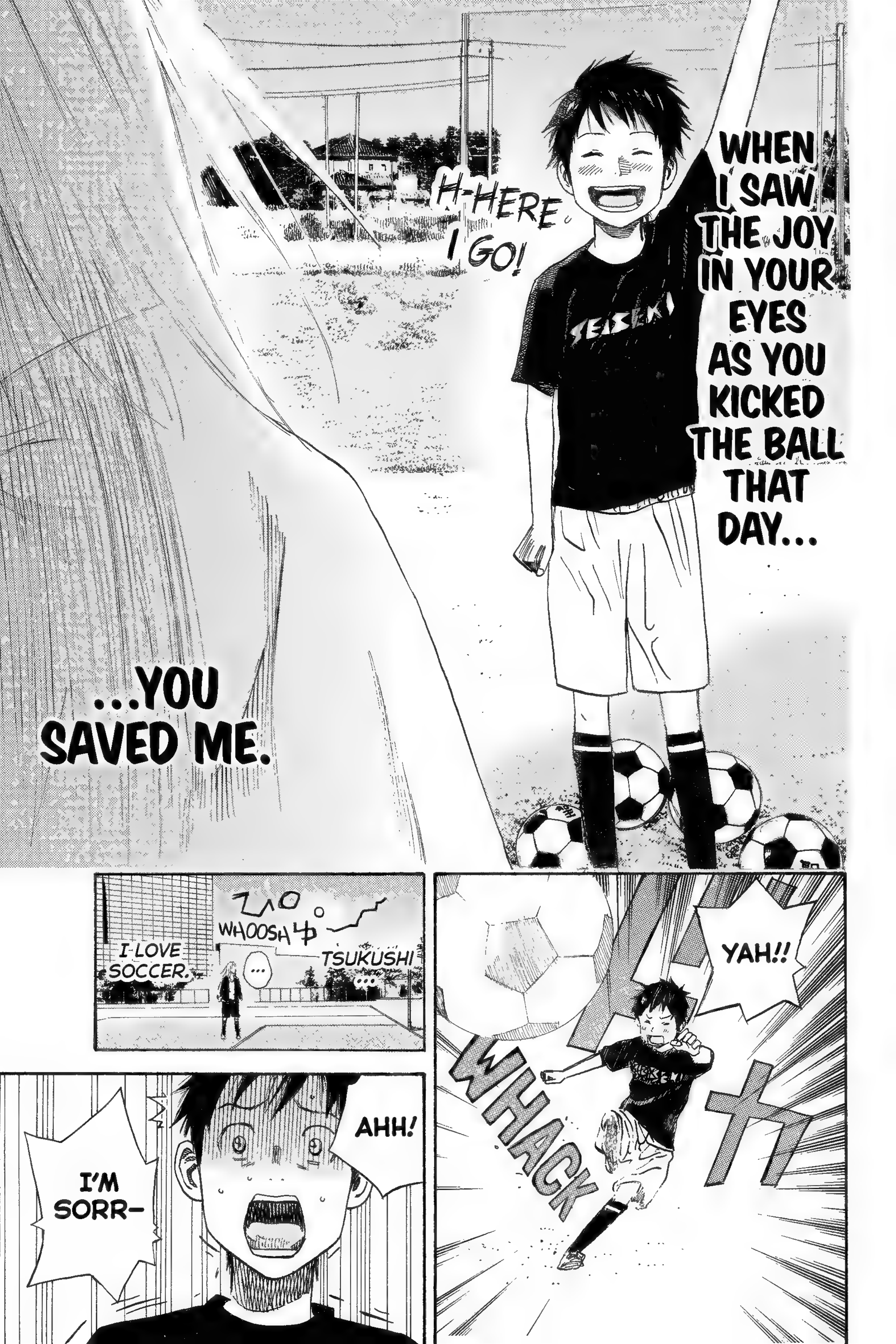

I'M SURE EVEN HE ...
... WORKS HARD, TOO, IN HIS OWN WAY.
HUFF
HUFF
... NO GOOD ...
I'M NOT GONNA SNEAK SHOTS PAST THE GOALIE LIKE THAT.

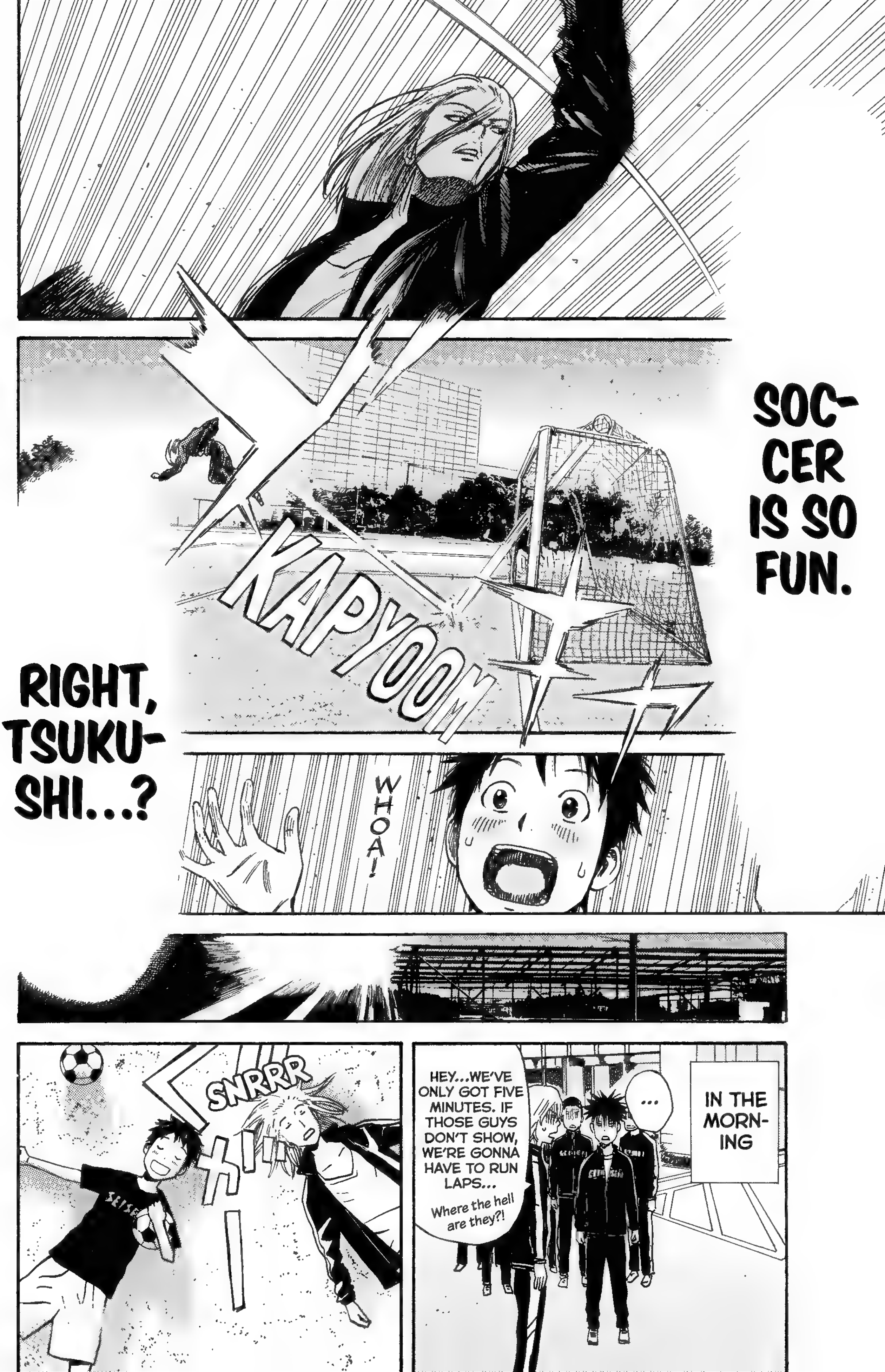

KAZAMA-KUN!
JOLT
...TSUKUSHI.
YOU SCARED ME!
WHAT'S UP?
DO YOU ALWAYS COME OUT AND PRACTICE ON YOUR OWN LIKE THIS?
...NO WAY! JUST EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
IT'S 'CAUSE ALL WE DID YESTERDAY WAS RUN!
I WANTED TO SHOOT SO BAD, I COULDN'T SLEEP.
YOU'RE A HARD WORKER, HUH, KAZAMA-KUN?
HMM?
HARD WORKER? ME? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TSUKUSHI?
WELL...!
IT'S JUST, YOU'RE OUT HERE PRACTICING ON YOUR OWN AT THIS HOUR...


I'M JUST PLAYING AROUND ON THE FIELD.
SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN, NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER REALLY WORKED AT SOCCER.
FWOOSH
NEITHER HAVE YOU, RIGHT, TSUKUSHI?
TMP

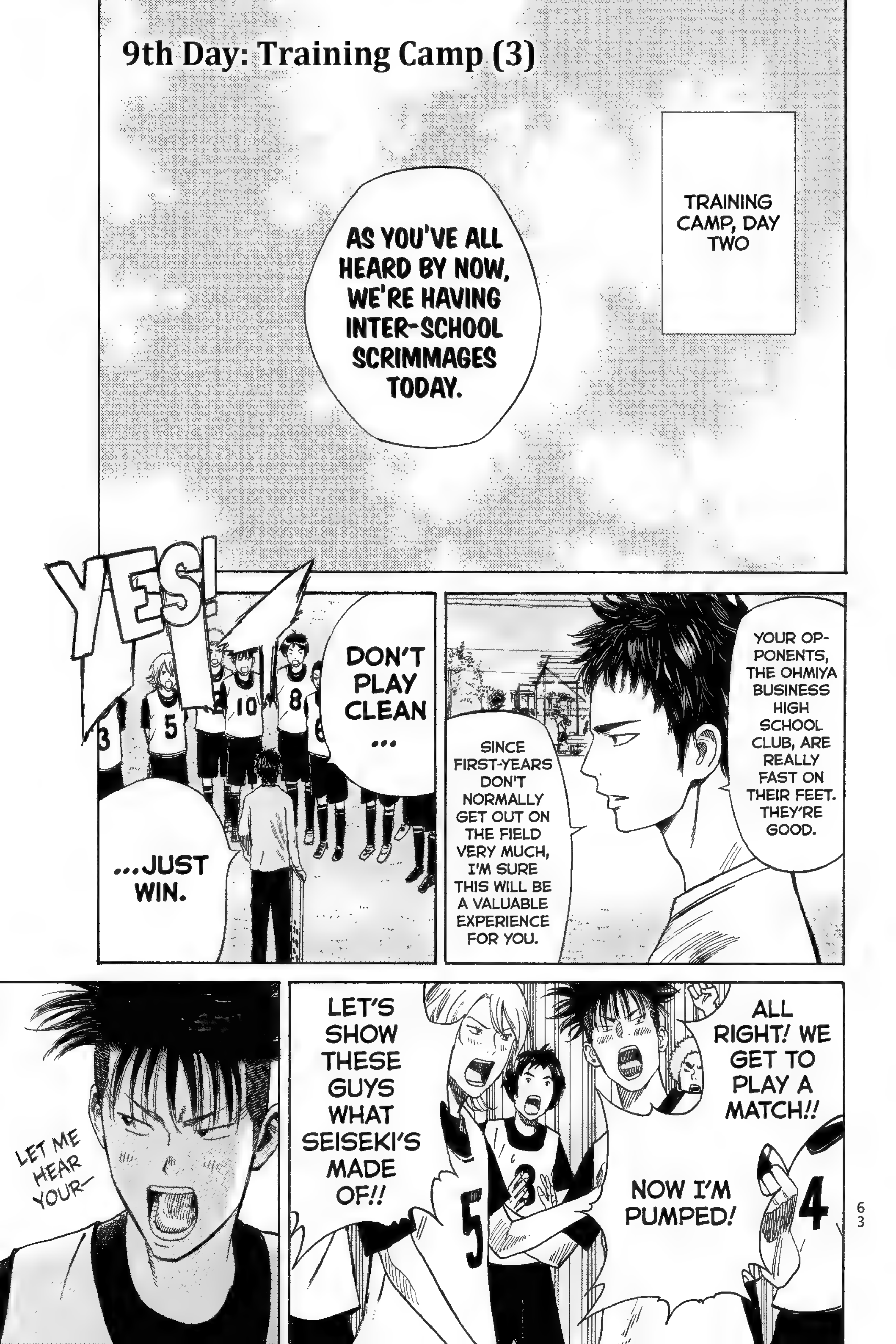

HE'S JUST SO COOL!
I'M PROUD OF HIM!
I–I WANNA PLAY AROUND, TOO!
YEAH? WHY DON'T WE, THEN?
LOB THE BALL OVER HERE, TSUKUSHI!
FMP
FMP
I'LL... I'LL DO MY BEST!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...ANYTHING AT ALL, TSUKUSHI.
LOOK AT YOU GO, JIN!
I WONDER... WHEN WAS IT THAT I STOPPED HAVING FUN KICKING THE SOCCER BALL?
MAYBE AROUND WHEN I FIRST MADE THE TEAM?
YOU HOG THE BALL TOO MUCH, KAZAMA!
3
OR WHEN I GOT ON THE DIRECTOR'S BAD SIDE AND HE TOOK ME OFF THE TEAM?

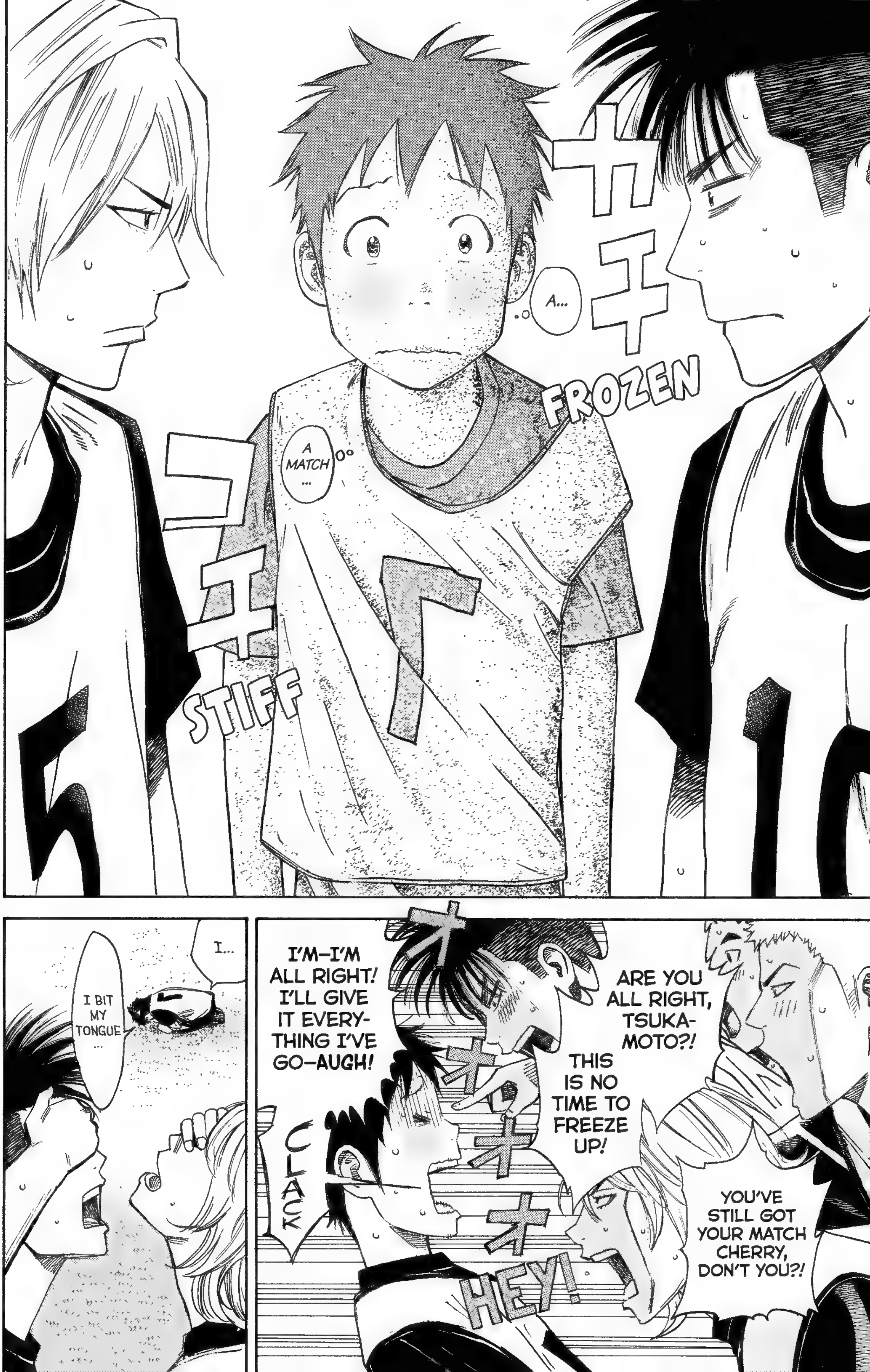

TSUKUSHI...
GEE, I WONDER IF I CAN...
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
EVERY TIME YOUR FOOT TOUCHES THE BALL...
...YOU FILL IT WITH JOY.
...SINCE I MET YOU, THAT'S CHANGED A LITTLE.
ON THE NIGHT OF THE FUTSAL GAME, I WATCHED YOU HOLD THE BALL YOU USED TO SCORE LIKE IT WAS A TREASURE...
...AND IT CHANGED ME A LITTLE.
I'M SURE YOU HAD HARD DAYS. DAYS YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DIE
MAYBE EVEN MORNINGS YOU COULDN'T GET OUT OF BED OR NIGHTS YOU COULDN'T STOP WORRYING.
STILL, EVERY TIME YOU GO TO KICK, IT'S LIKE THE BALL IS SMILING BACK AT YOU,
TSUKUSHI...

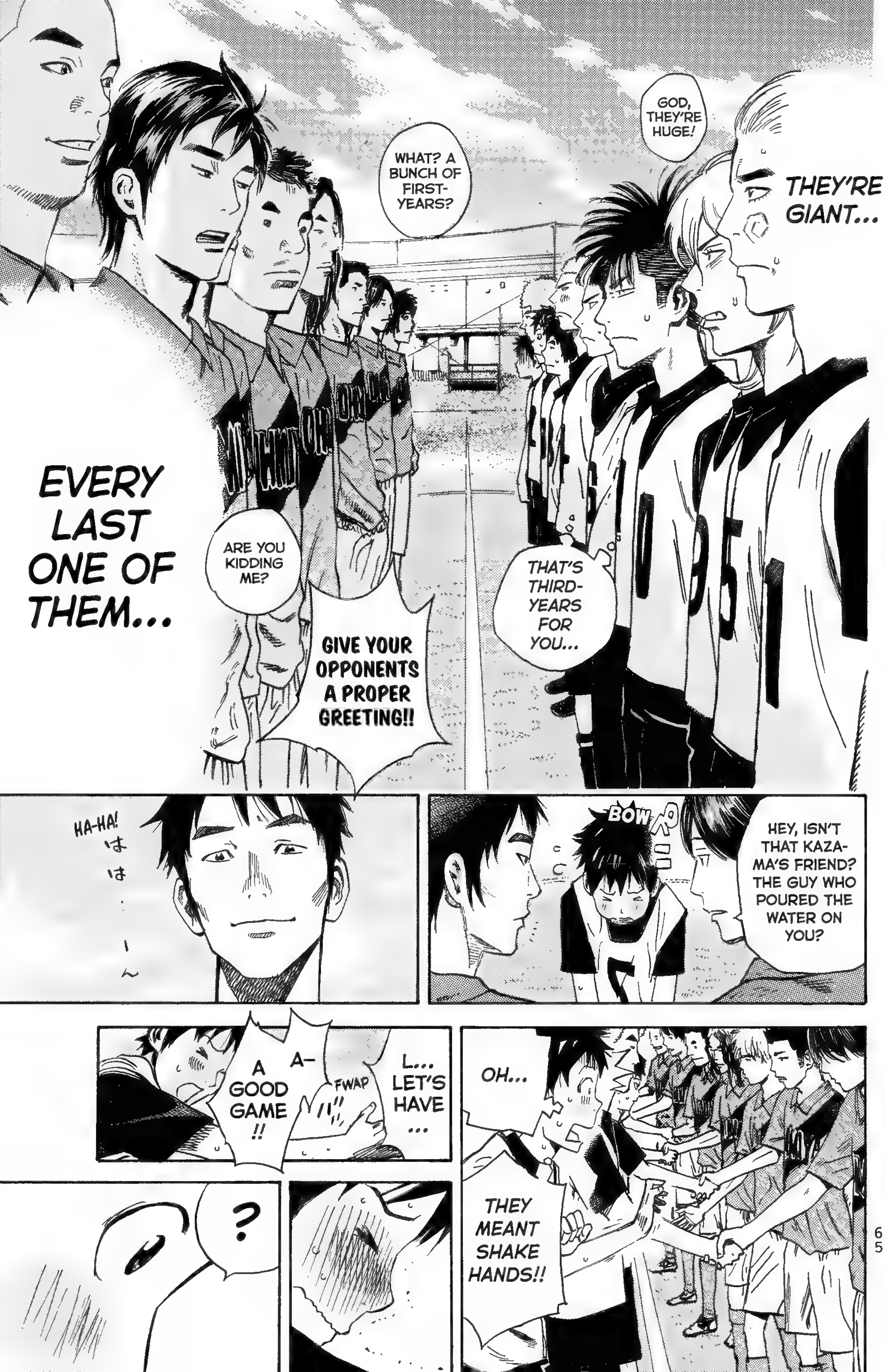

WHEN I SAW THE JOY IN YOUR EYES AS YOU KICKED THE BALL THAT DAY...
H-HERE I GO!
...YOU SAVED ME.
YAH!!
WHACK
WHOOSH
I LOVE SOCCER.
...
TSUKUSHI...
AHH!
I'M SORR–

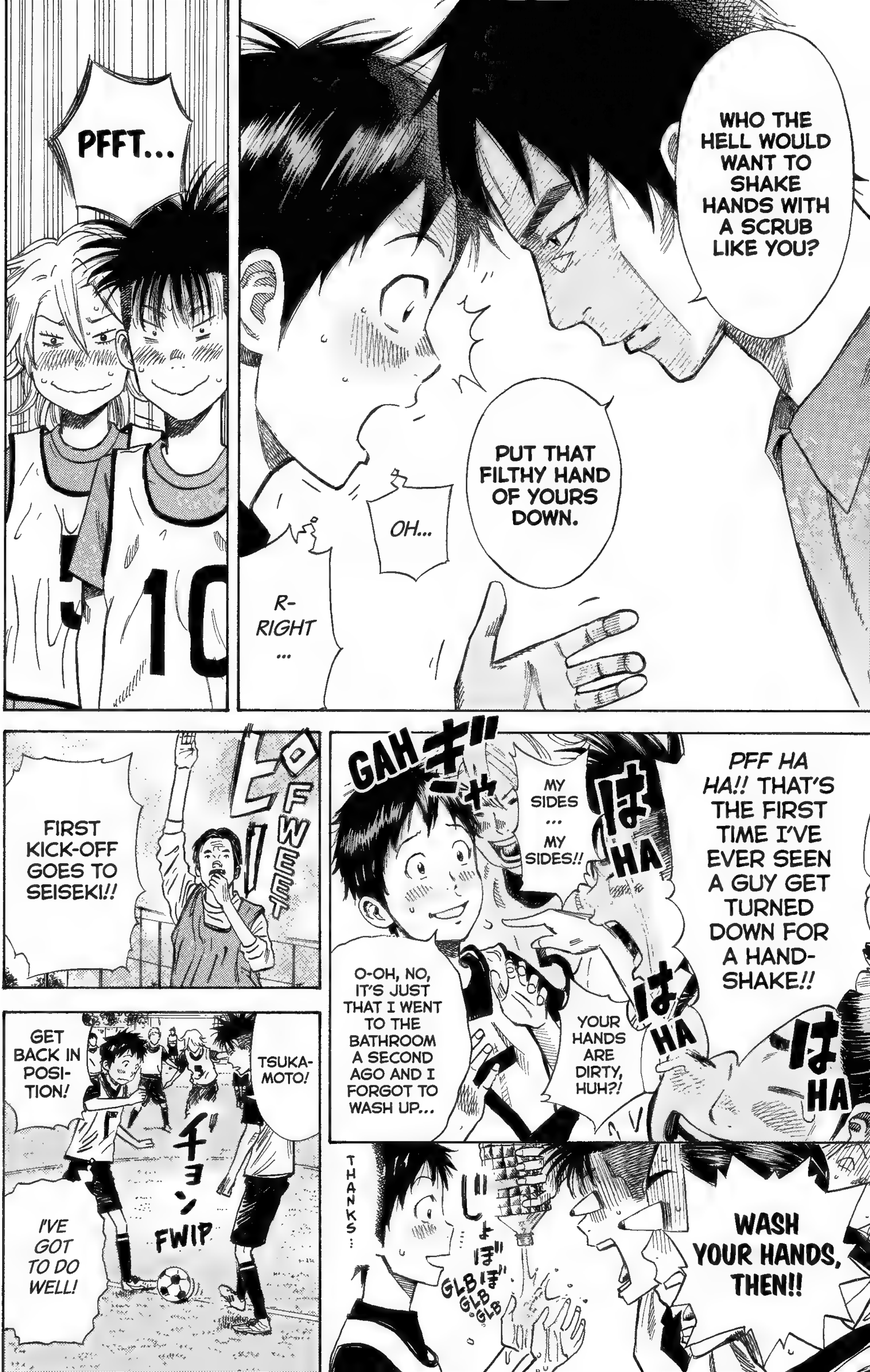

SOCCER IS SO FUN.
KAPYOOM
RIGHT, TSUKUSHI...?
WHOA!
IN THE MORNING
...
HEY...WE'VE ONLY GOT FIVE MINUTES. IF THOSE GUYS DON'T SHOW, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO RUN LAPS...
Where the hell are they?!
SNRRR

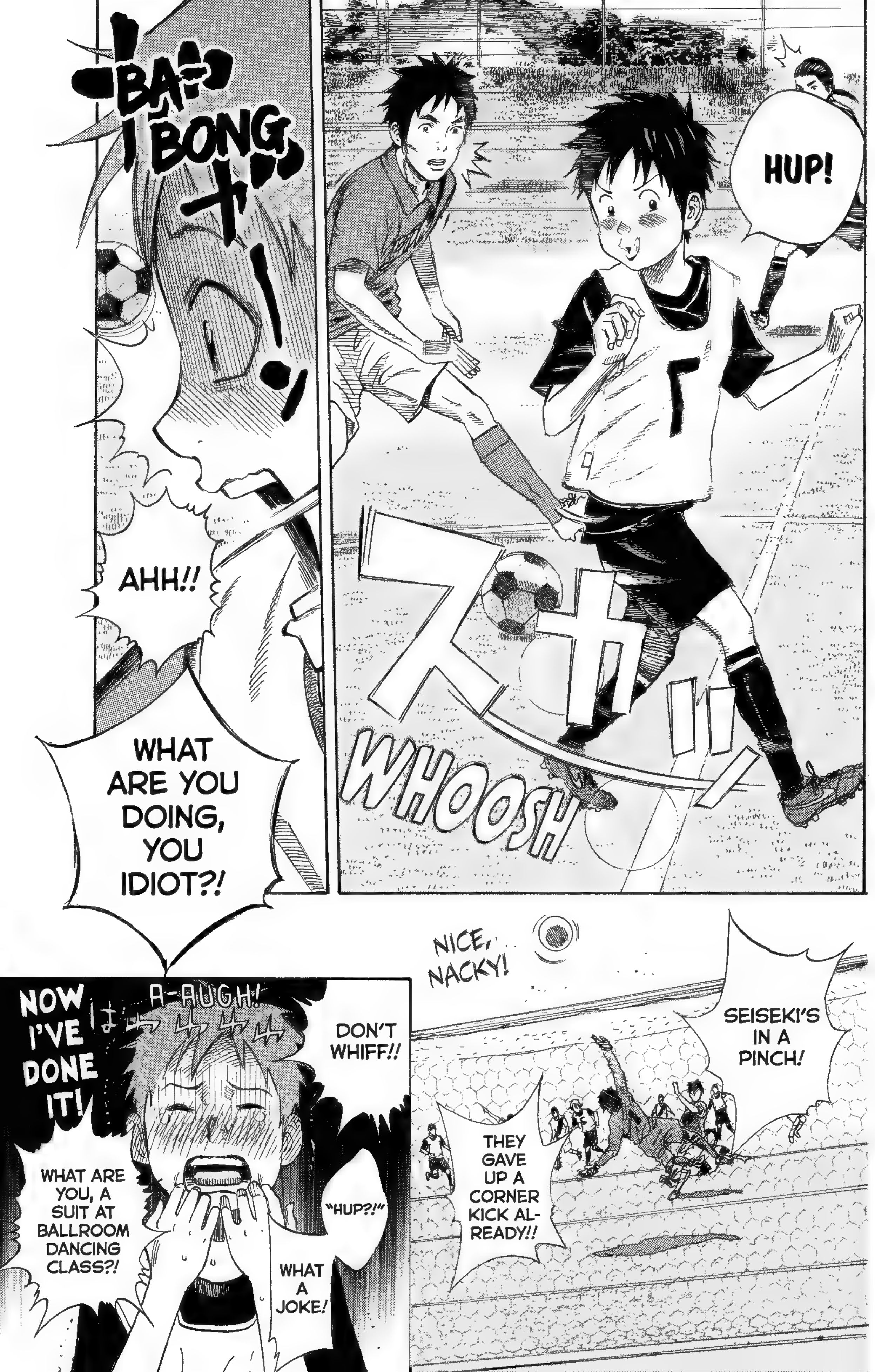
9th Day: Training Camp (3)

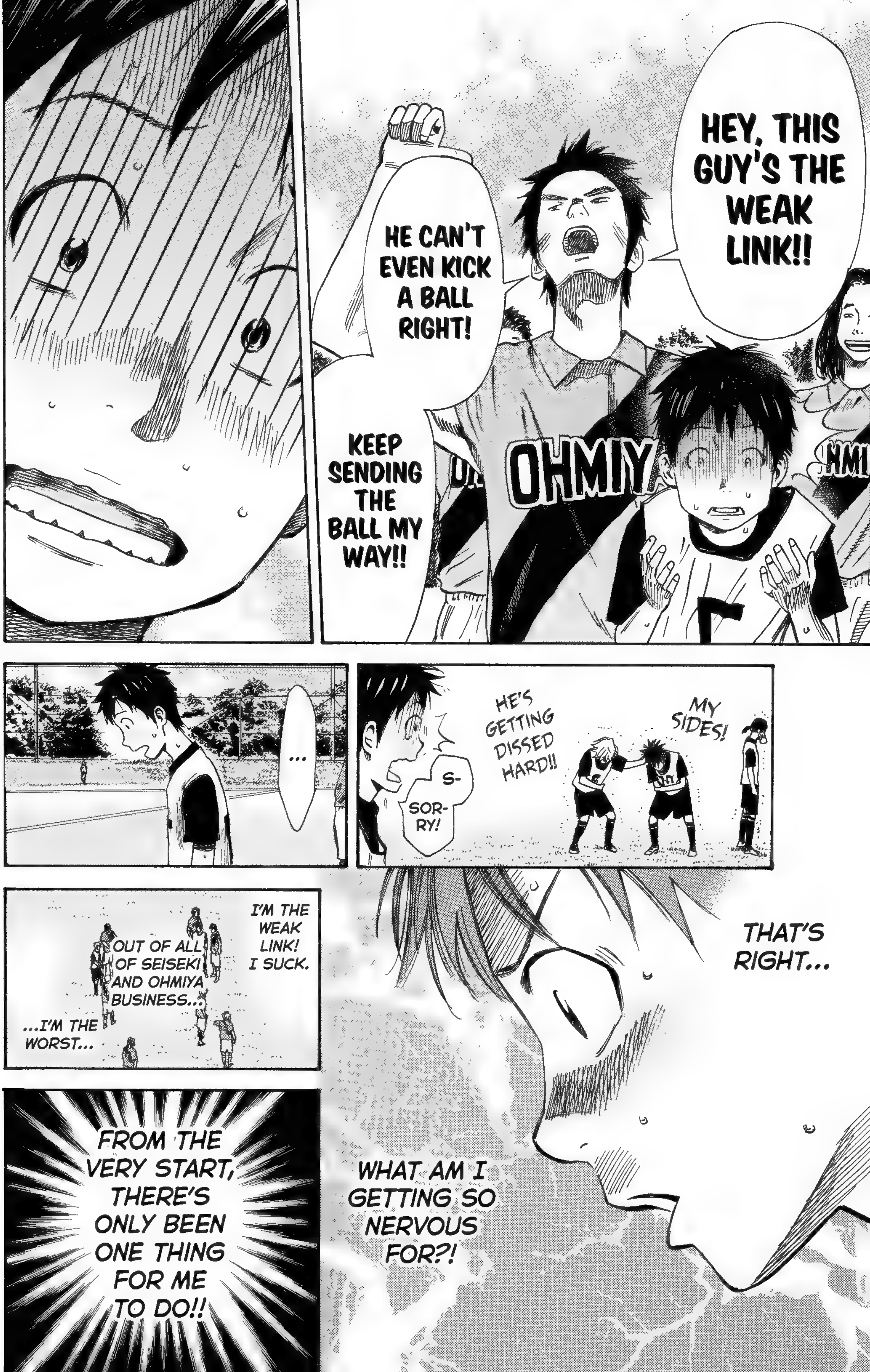

TRAINING CAMP, DAY TWO
AS YOU'VE ALL HEARD BY NOW, WE'RE HAVING INTER-SCHOOL SCRIMMAGES TODAY.
YOUR OPPONENTS, THE OHMIYA BUSINESS HIGH SCHOOL CLUB, ARE REALLY FAST ON THEIR FEET. THEY'RE GOOD.
SINCE FIRST-YEARS DON'T NORMALLY GET OUT ON THE FIELD VERY MUCH, I'M SURE THIS WILL BE A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.
DON'T PLAY CLEAN...
...JUST WIN.
YES!
ALL RIGHT! WE GET TO PLAY A MATCH!!
NOW I'M PUMPED!
LET'S SHOW THESE GUYS WHAT SEISEKI'S MADE OF!!
LET ME HEAR YOUR—

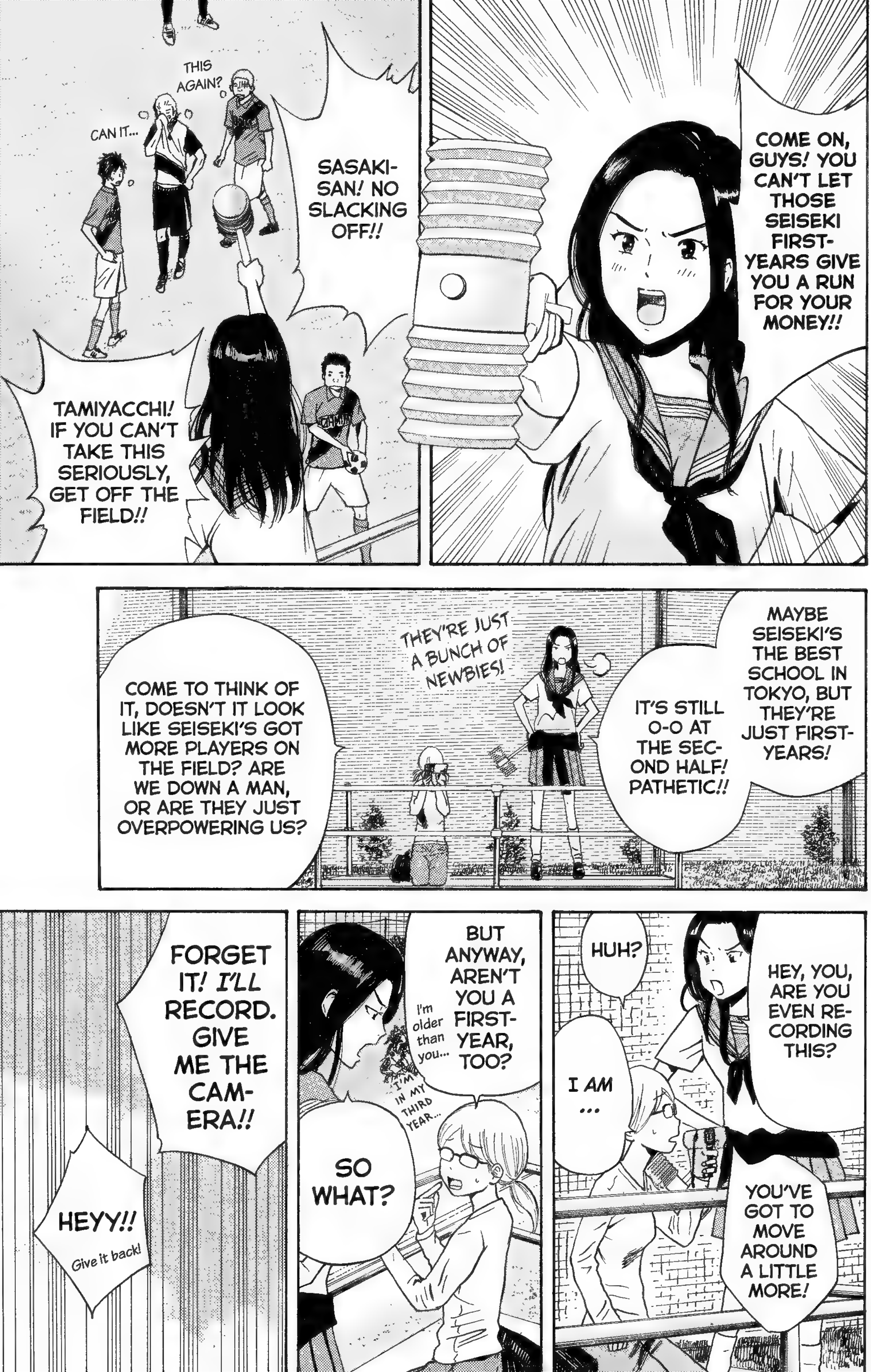

A...
カチ
FROZEN
A MATCH...
コチ
STIFF
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TSUKAMOTO?!
THIS IS NO TIME TO FREEZE UP!
YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR MATCH CHERRY, DON'T YOU?!
オオオオ
HEY!
I'M–I'M ALL RIGHT! I'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GO–AUGH!
CLACK
I...
I BIT MY TONGUE...

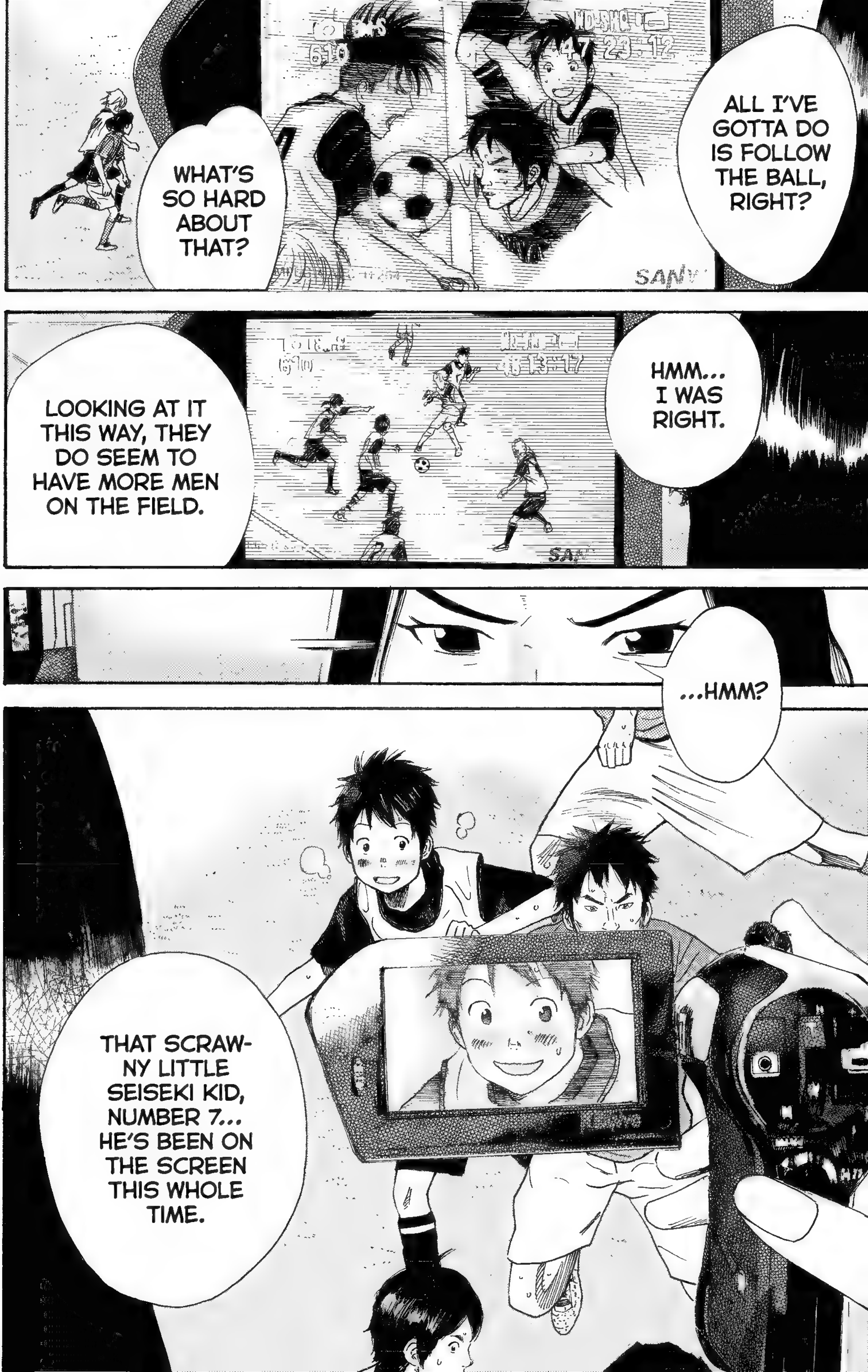

GOD, THEY'RE HUGE!
THEY'RE GIANT...
WHAT? A BUNCH OF FIRST-YEARS?
THAT'S THIRD-YEARS FOR YOU...
EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM...
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
GIVE YOUR OPPONENTS A PROPER GREETING!!
HEY, ISN'T THAT KAZAMA'S FRIEND? THE GUY WHO POURED THE WATER ON YOU?
BOW
HA-HA!
はは・・ーん
OH...
THEY MEANT SHAKE HANDS!!
L... LET'S HAVE...
FWAP
A– A GOOD GAME!!
?

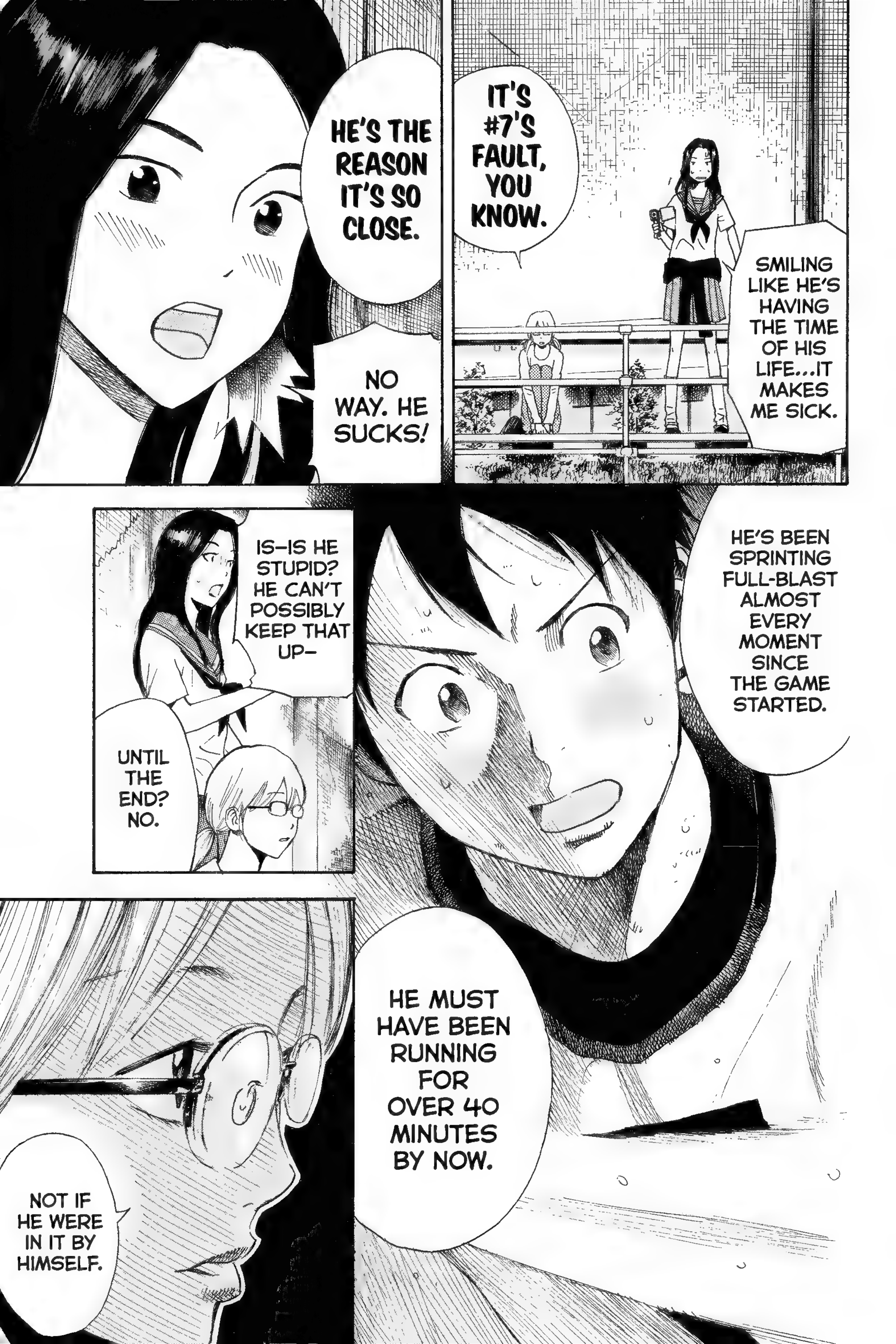

WHO THE HELL WOULD WANT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH A SCRUB LIKE YOU?
PUT THAT FILTHY HAND OF YOURS DOWN.
OH...
R-RIGHT...
PFFT...
PFF HA HA!! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN A GUY GET TURNED DOWN FOR A HANDSHAKE!!
は HA は HA は HA
MY SIDES... MY SIDES!!
GAH ぎゃ
YOUR HANDS ARE DIRTY, HUH?!
O-OH, NO, IT'S JUST THAT I WENT TO THE BATHROOM A SECOND AGO AND I FORGOT TO WASH UP...
FIRST KICK-OFF GOES TO SEISEKI!!
ピー FWEET
WASH YOUR HANDS, THEN!!
じょぼぼぼ GLB GLB GLB
THANKS...
TSUKAMOTO!
GET BACK IN POSITION!
チョン FWIP
I'VE GOT TO DO WELL!

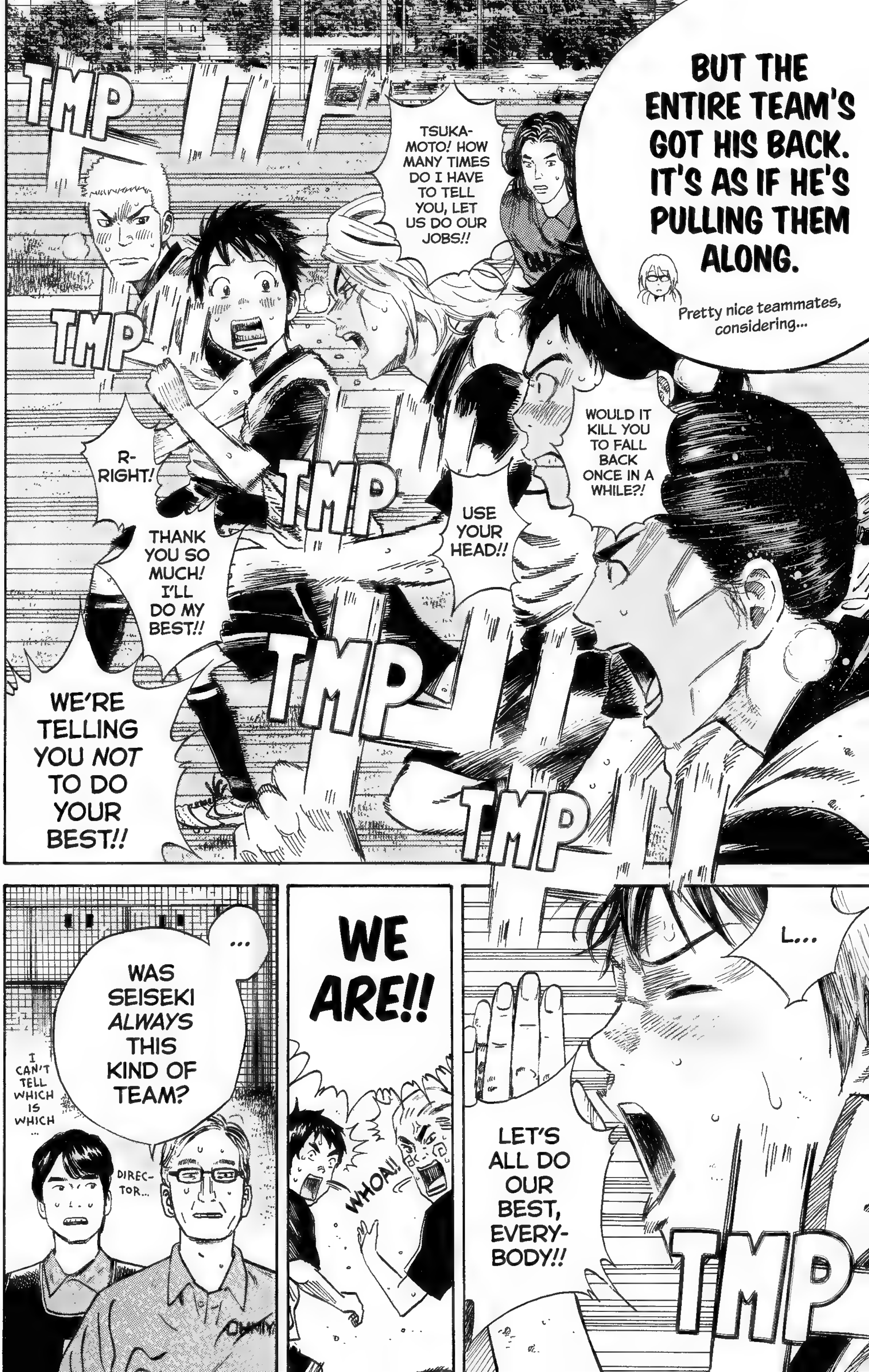

HUP!
スカッ
WHOOSH
BA-BONG
AHH!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!
NICE, NACKY!
SEISEKI'S IN A PINCH!
THEY GAVE UP A CORNER KICK ALREADY!!
DON'T WHIFF!!
A-AUGH!
NOW I'VE DONE IT!
WHAT ARE YOU, A SUIT AT BALLROOM DANCING CLASS?!
"HUP?!"
WHAT A JOKE!

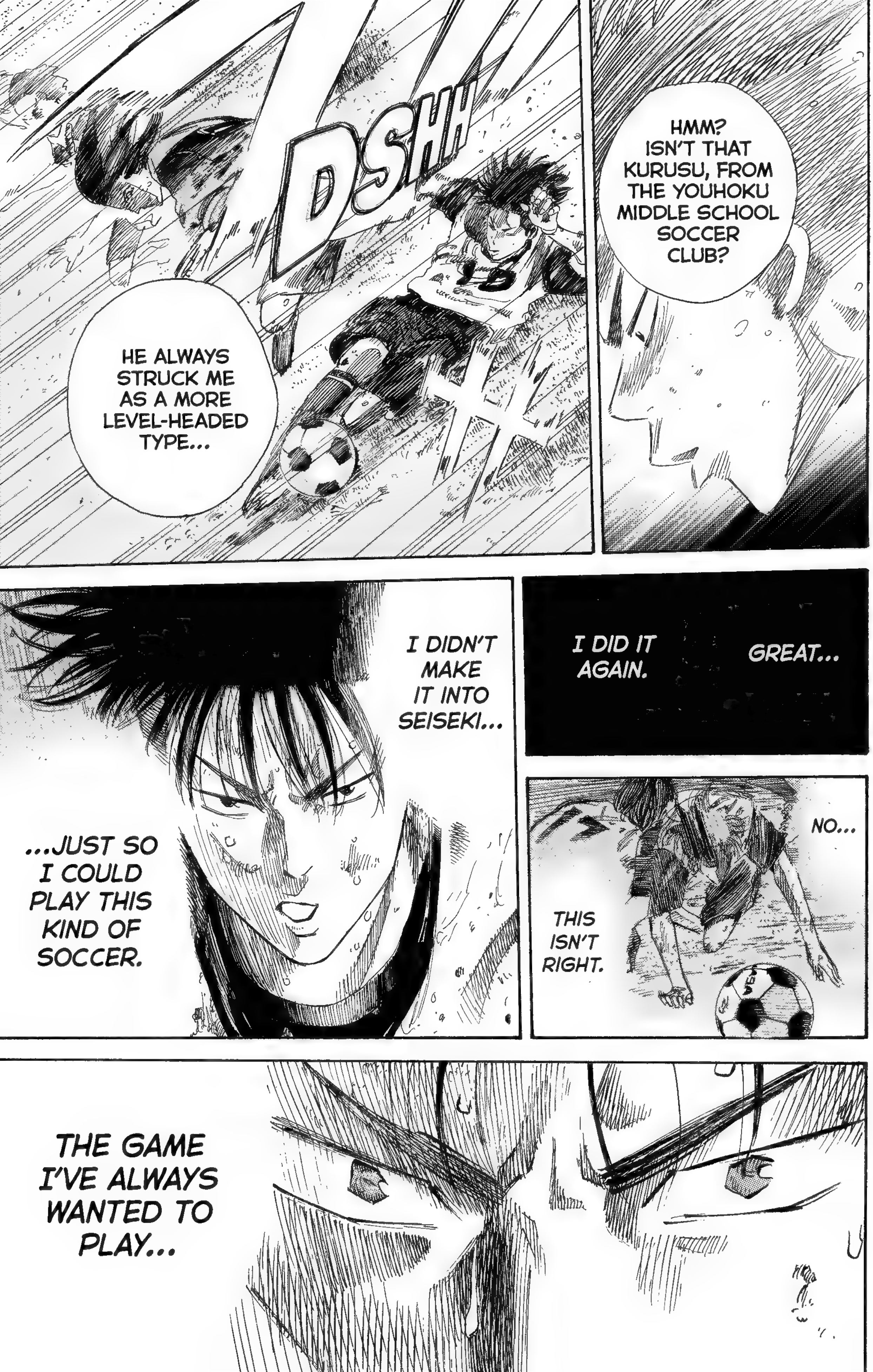

HEY, THIS GUY'S THE WEAK LINK!!
HE CAN'T EVEN KICK A BALL RIGHT!
KEEP SENDING THE BALL MY WAY!!
OHMIY
MY SIDES!
HE'S GETTING DISSED HARD!!
S- SORRY!
...
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'M THE WEAK LINK! I SUCK.
OUT OF ALL OF SEISEKI AND OHMIYA BUSINESS...
...I'M THE WORST...
WHAT AM I GETTING SO NERVOUS FOR?!
FROM THE VERY START, THERE'S ONLY BEEN ONE THING FOR ME TO DO!!

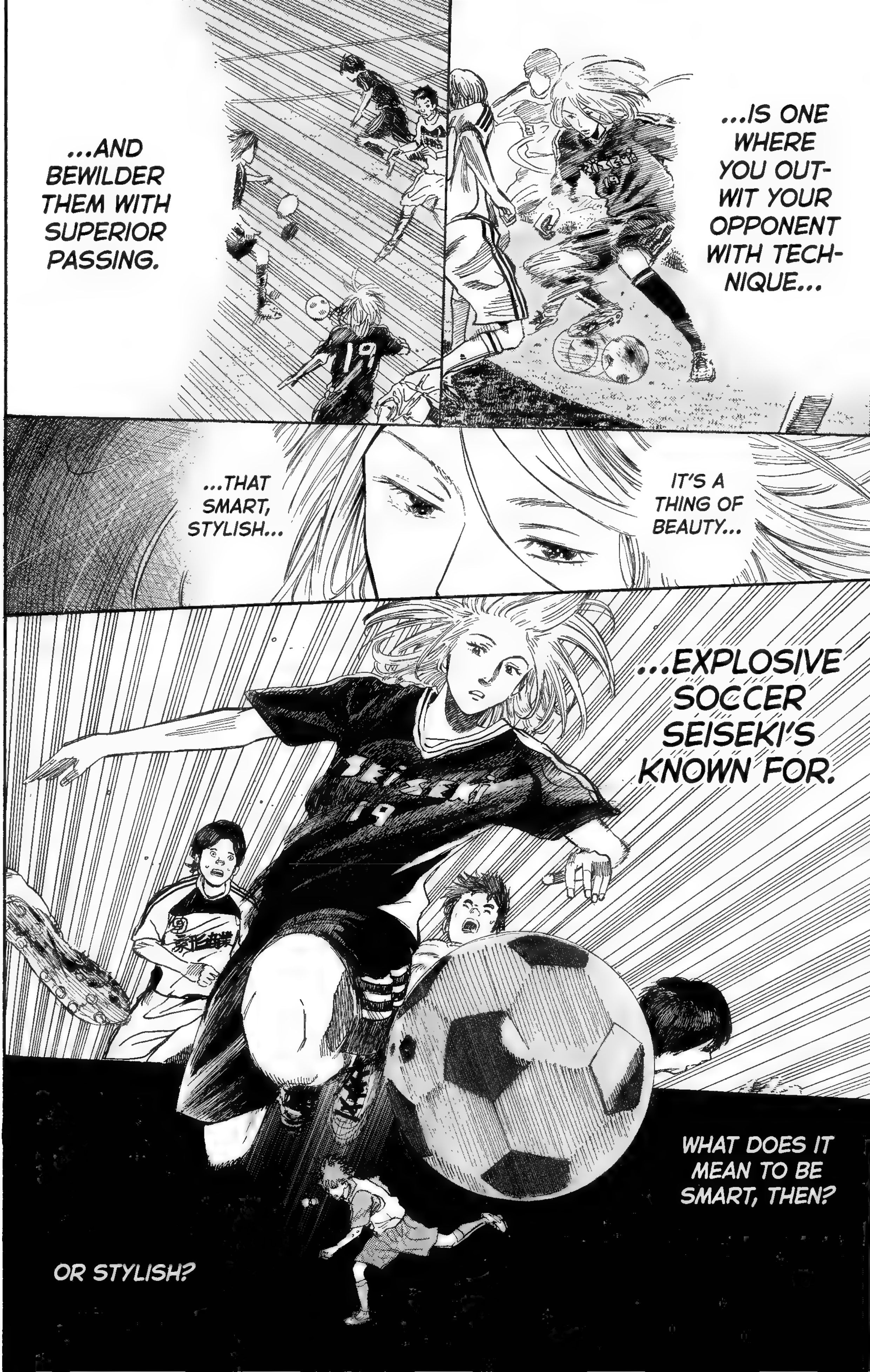

COME ON, GUYS! YOU CAN'T LET THOSE SEISEKI FIRST-YEARS GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY!!
SASAKI-SAN! NO SLACKING OFF!!
THIS AGAIN?
CAN IT...
TAMIYACCHI! IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, GET OFF THE FIELD!!
MAYBE SEISEKI'S THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOKYO, BUT THEY'RE JUST FIRST-YEARS!
IT'S STILL 0-0 AT THE SECOND HALF! PATHETIC!!
THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF NEWBIES!
COME TO THINK OF IT, DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE SEISEKI'S GOT MORE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD? ARE WE DOWN A MAN, OR ARE THEY JUST OVERPOWERING US?
HEY, YOU, ARE YOU EVEN RECORDING THIS?
HUH?
YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE AROUND A LITTLE MORE!
I AM...
BUT ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU A FIRST-YEAR, TOO?
I'm older than you...
I'M IN MY THIRD YEAR...
SO WHAT?
FORGET IT! I'LL RECORD. GIVE ME THE CAMERA!!
HEYY!!
Give it back!

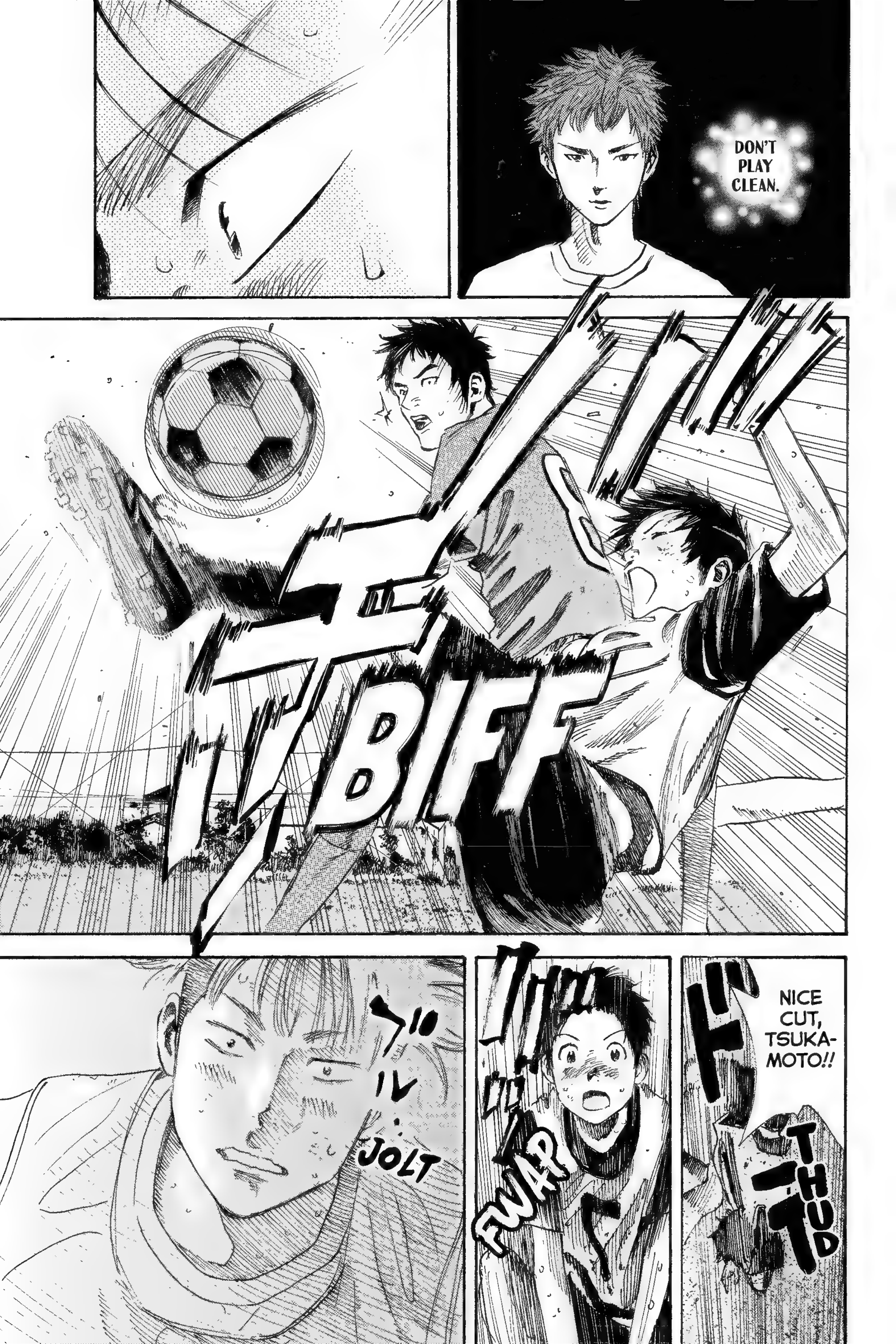

ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS FOLLOW THE BALL, RIGHT?
WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT THAT?
HMM... I WAS RIGHT.
LOOKING AT IT THIS WAY, THEY DO SEEM TO HAVE MORE MEN ON THE FIELD.
...HMM?
THAT SCRAWNY LITTLE SEISEKI KID, NUMBER 7... HE'S BEEN ON THE SCREEN THIS WHOLE TIME.

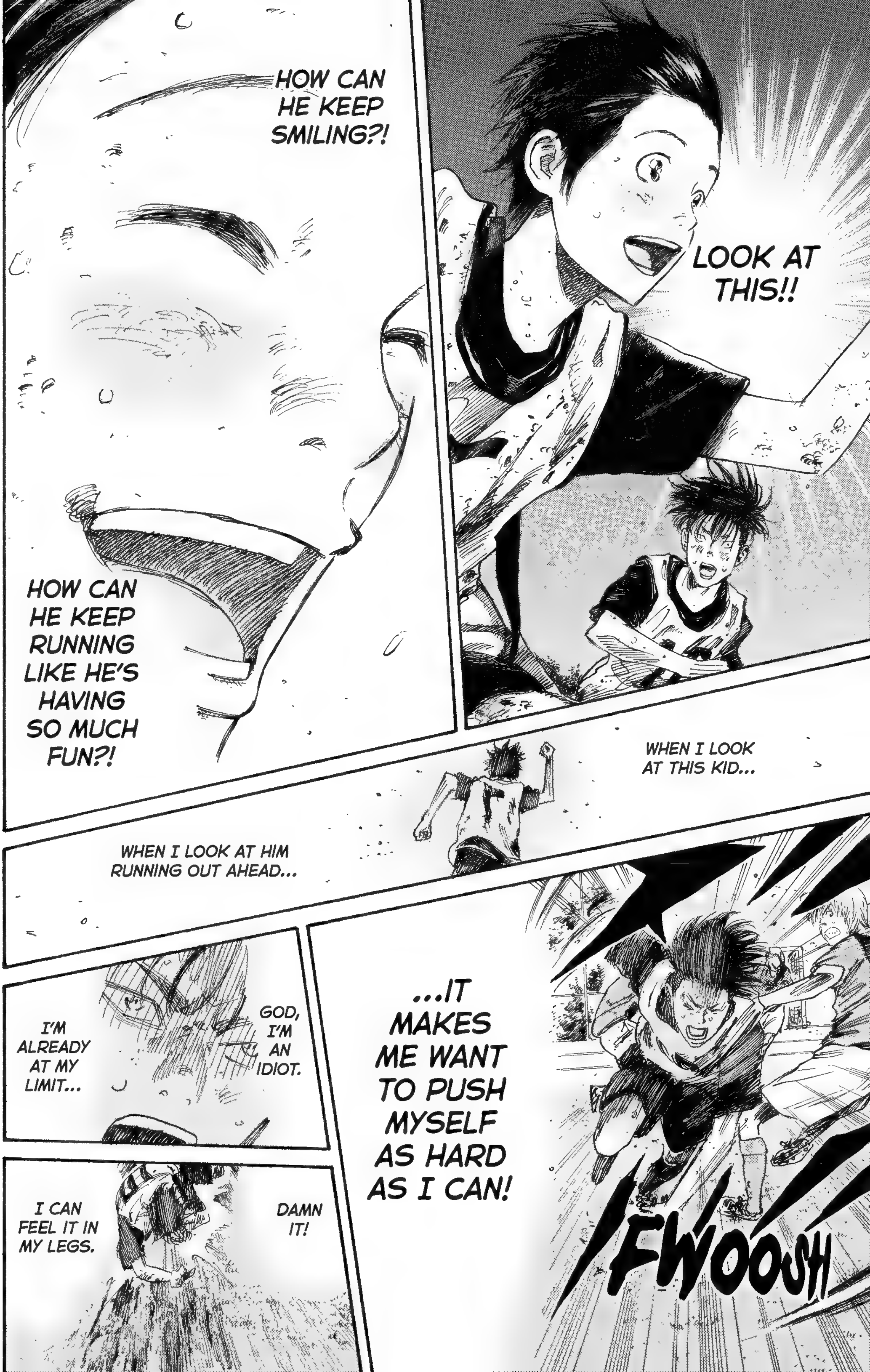

IT'S #7'S FAULT, YOU KNOW.
SMILING LIKE HE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE...IT MAKES ME SICK.
HE'S THE REASON IT'S SO CLOSE.
NO WAY. HE SUCKS!
HE'S BEEN SPRINTING FULL-BLAST ALMOST EVERY MOMENT SINCE THE GAME STARTED.
IS-IS HE STUPID? HE CAN'T POSSIBLY KEEP THAT UP-
UNTIL THE END? NO.
HE MUST HAVE BEEN RUNNING FOR OVER 40 MINUTES BY NOW.
NOT IF HE WERE IN IT BY HIMSELF.

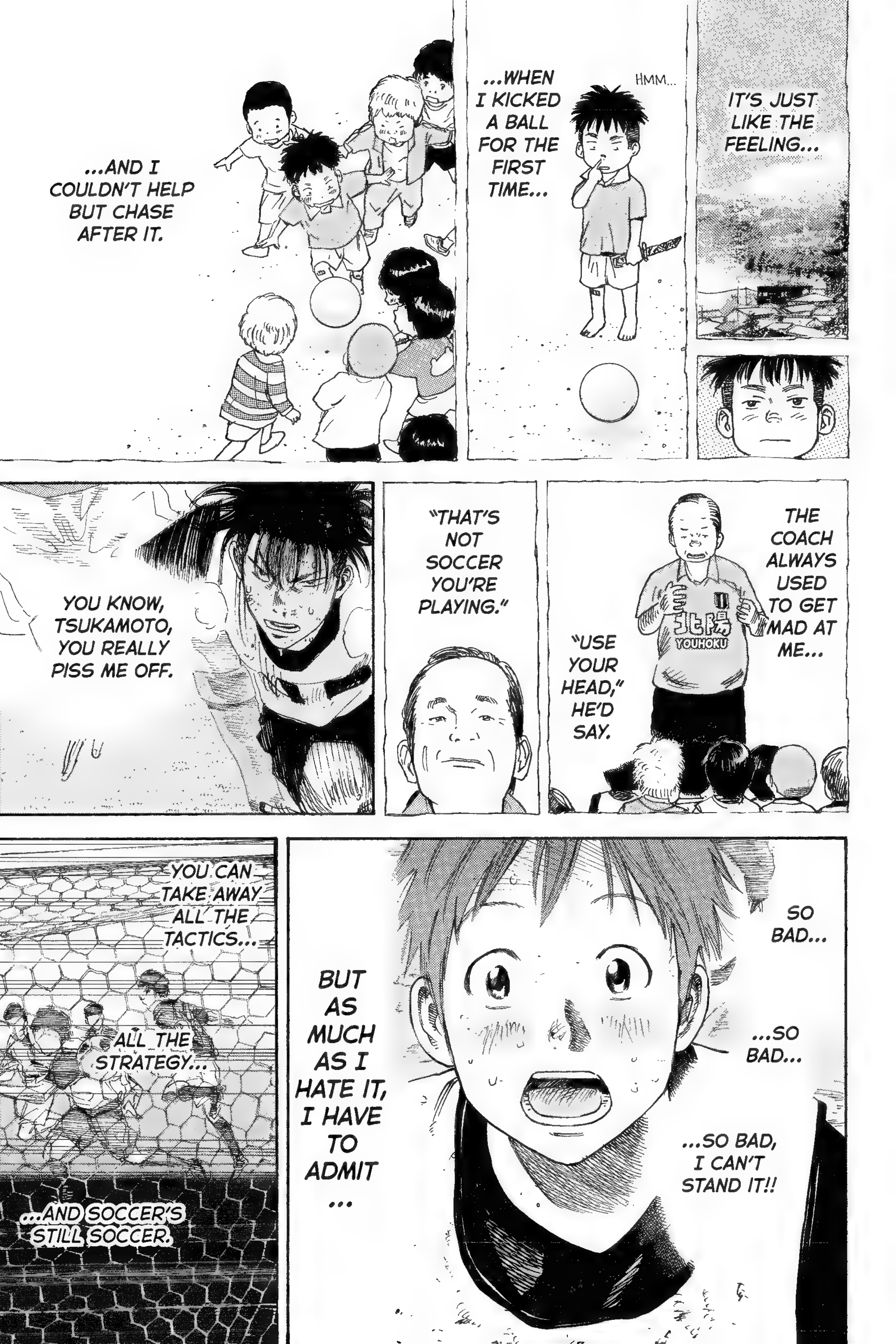

BUT THE ENTIRE TEAM'S GOT HIS BACK. IT'S AS IF HE'S PULLING THEM ALONG.
Pretty nice teammates, considering...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TSUKAMOTO! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, LET US DO OUR JOBS!!
WOULD IT KILL YOU TO FALL BACK ONCE IN A WHILE?!
USE YOUR HEAD!!
R-RIGHT!
THANK YOU SO MUCH! I'LL DO MY BEST!!
WE'RE TELLING YOU *NOT* TO DO YOUR BEST!!
L...
LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST, EVERYBODY!!
TMP
WE ARE!!
WHOA!!
...
WAS SEISEKI *ALWAYS* THIS KIND OF TEAM?
DIRECTOR...
I CAN'T TELL WHICH IS WHICH...

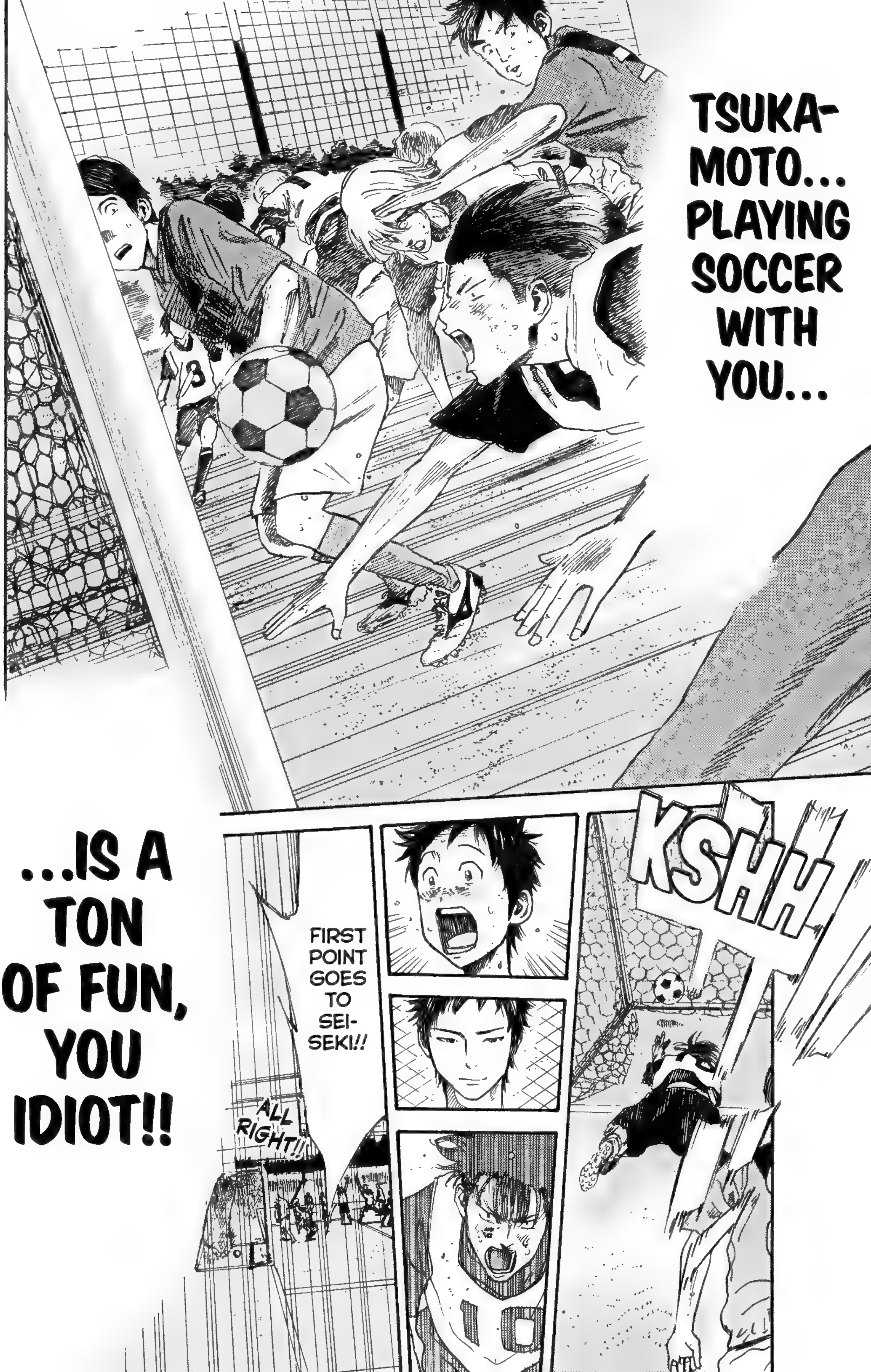

HMM? ISN'T THAT KURUSU, FROM THE YOUHOKU MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER CLUB?
DSHH
HE ALWAYS STRUCK ME AS A MORE LEVEL-HEADED TYPE...
GREAT...
I DID IT AGAIN.
NO...
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
I DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO SEISEKI...
...JUST SO I COULD PLAY THIS KIND OF SOCCER.
THE GAME I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY...

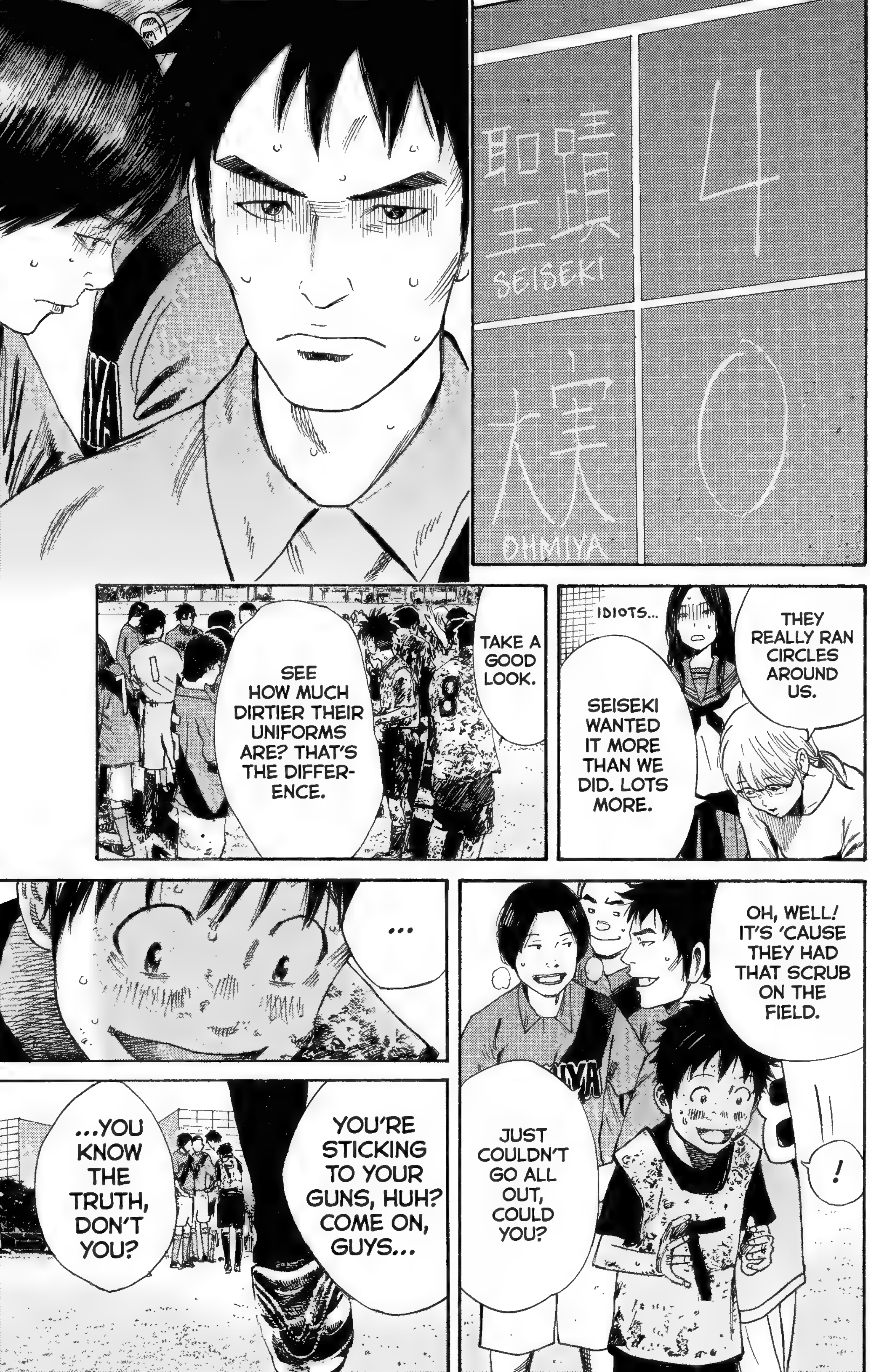

...IS ONE WHERE YOU OUT-WIT YOUR OPPONENT WITH TECHNIQUE...
...AND BEWILDER THEM WITH SUPERIOR PASSING.
IT'S A THING OF BEAUTY...
...THAT SMART, STYLISH...
...EXPLOSIVE SOCCER SEISEKI'S KNOWN FOR.
SEISEKI 19
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SMART, THEN?
OR STYLISH?

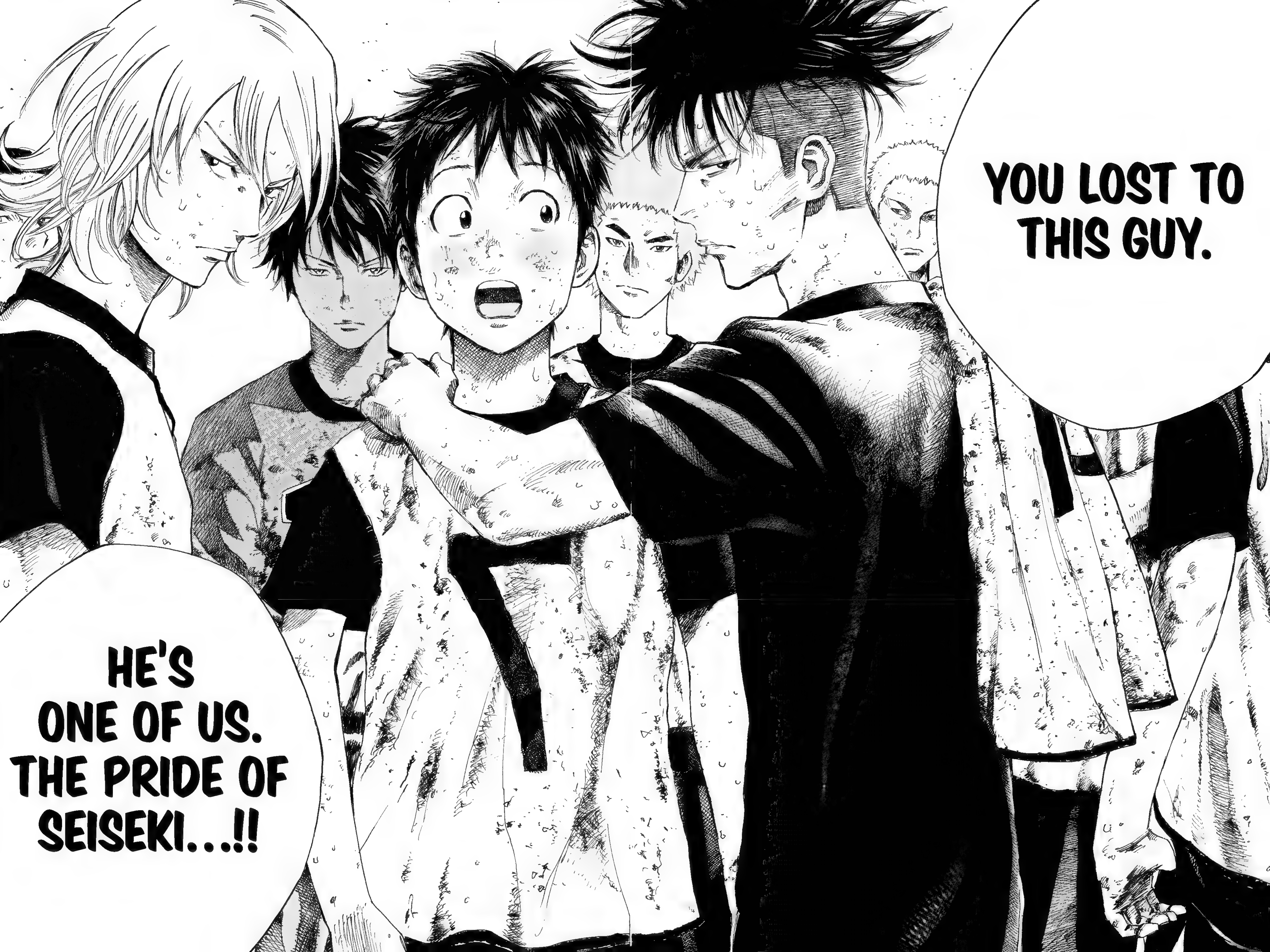

DON'T PLAY CLEAN.
BIFF
NICE CUT, TSUKAMOTO!!
THUD
FWAP
JOLT

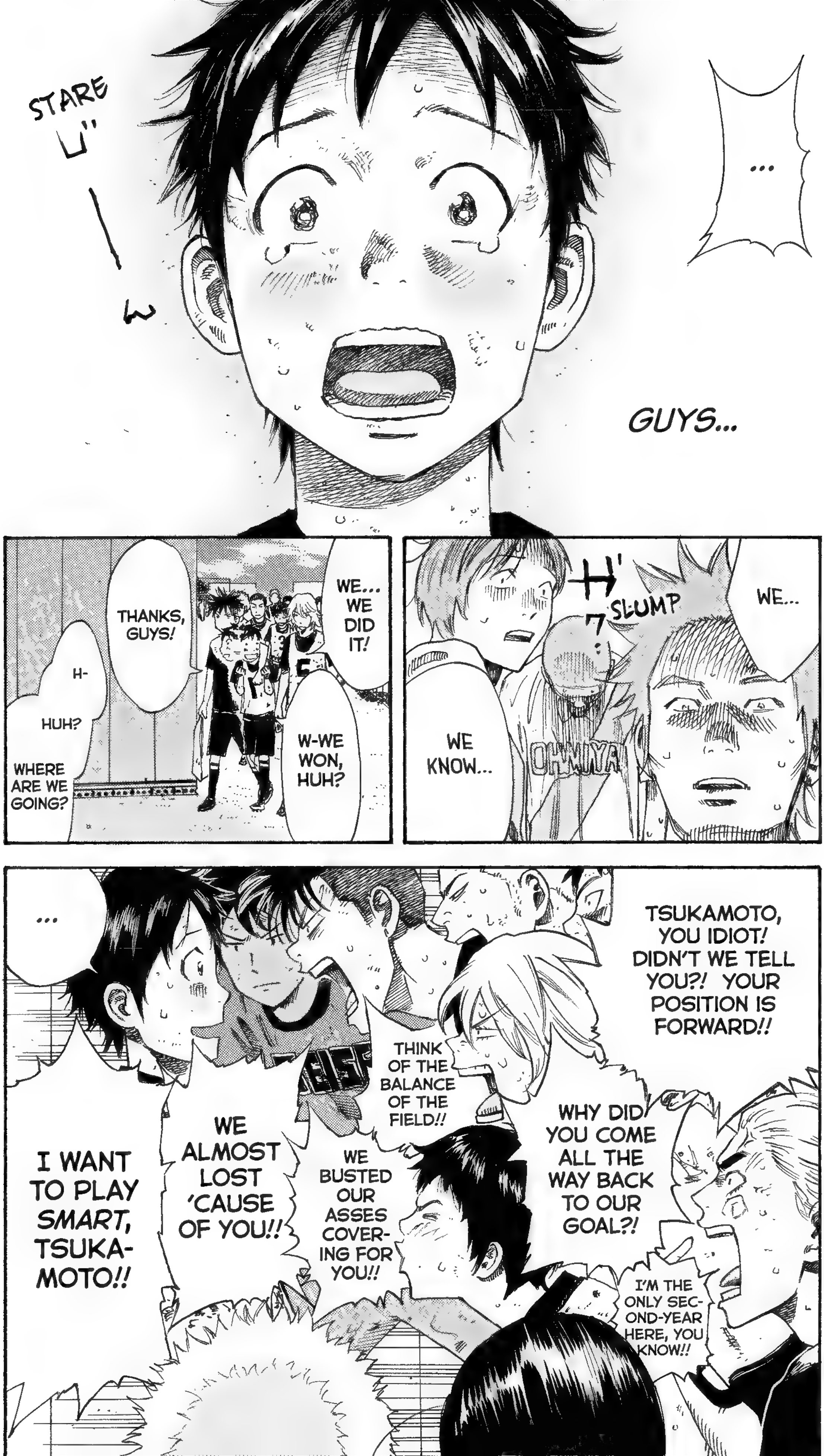

LOOK AT THIS!!
HOW CAN HE KEEP SMILING?!
HOW CAN HE KEEP RUNNING LIKE HE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN?!
WHEN I LOOK AT THIS KID...
WHEN I LOOK AT HIM RUNNING OUT AHEAD...
...IT MAKES ME WANT TO PUSH MYSELF AS HARD AS I CAN!
FWOOSH
GOD, I'M AN IDIOT.
I'M ALREADY AT MY LIMIT...
DAMN IT!
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY LEGS.


IT'S JUST LIKE THE FEELING...
HMM...
...WHEN I KICKED A BALL FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...AND I COULDN'T HELP BUT CHASE AFTER IT.
THE COACH ALWAYS USED TO GET MAD AT ME...
北陽 YOUHOKU
"USE YOUR HEAD," HE'D SAY.
"THAT'S NOT SOCCER YOU'RE PLAYING."
YOU KNOW, TSUKAMOTO, YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF.
SO BAD...
...SO BAD...
...SO BAD, I CAN'T STAND IT!!
BUT AS MUCH AS I HATE IT, I HAVE TO ADMIT ...
YOU CAN TAKE AWAY ALL THE TACTICS...
ALL THE STRATEGY...
...AND SOCCER'S STILL SOCCER.

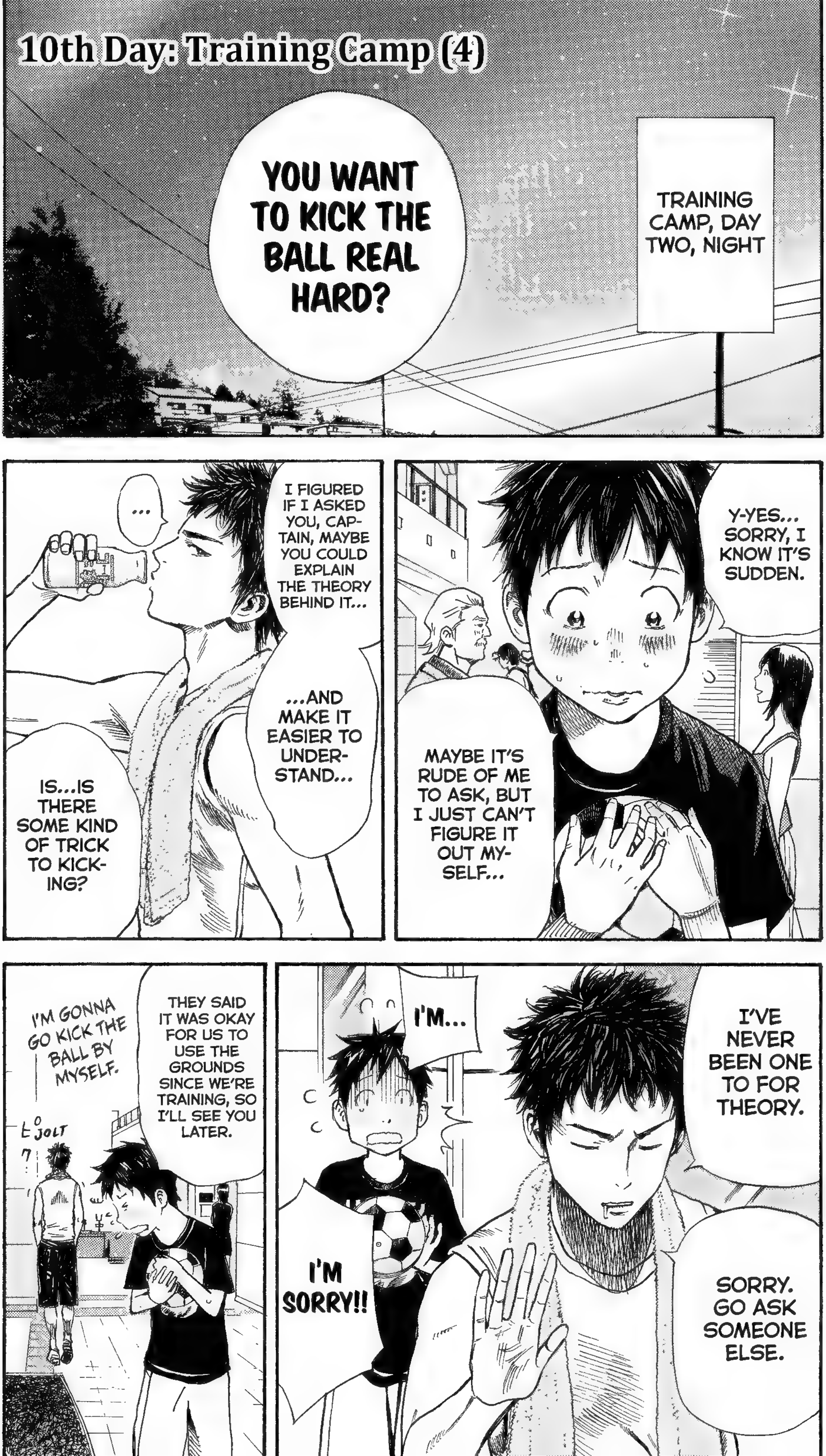

TSUKAMOTO... PLAYING SOCCER WITH YOU...
KSHH
FIRST POINT GOES TO SEISEKI!!
ALL RIGHT!!
...IS A TON OF FUN, YOU IDIOT!!

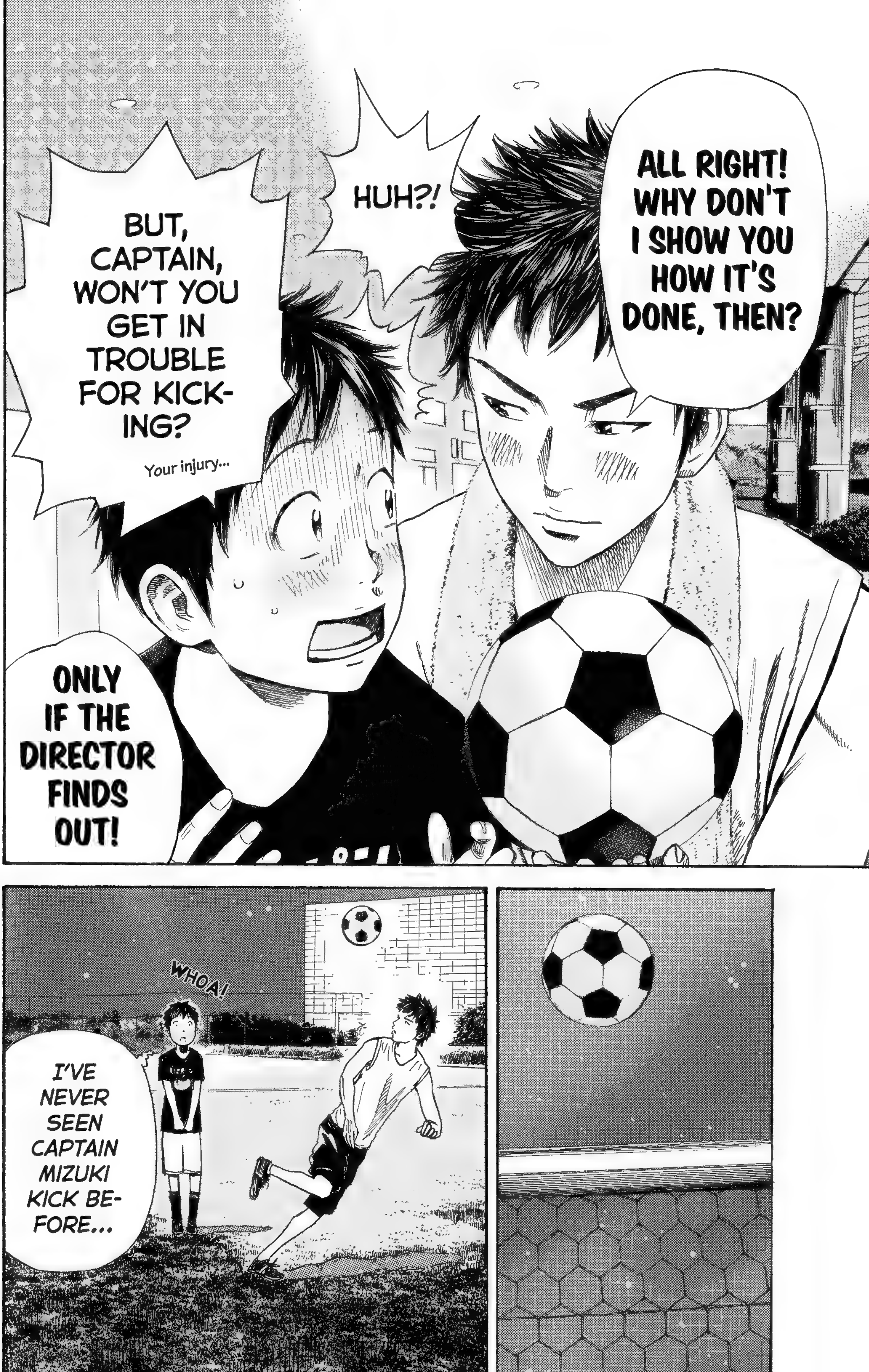

聖蹟
SEISEKI
4
大宮
OHMIYA
0
THEY REALLY RAN CIRCLES AROUND US.
IDIOTS...
SEISEKI WANTED IT MORE THAN WE DID. LOTS MORE.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
SEE HOW MUCH DIRTIER THEIR UNIFORMS ARE? THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE.
OH, WELL! IT'S 'CAUSE THEY HAD THAT SCRUB ON THE FIELD.
JUST COULDN'T GO ALL OUT, COULD YOU?
!
...
YOU'RE STICKING TO YOUR GUNS, HUH? COME ON, GUYS...
...YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, DON'T YOU?

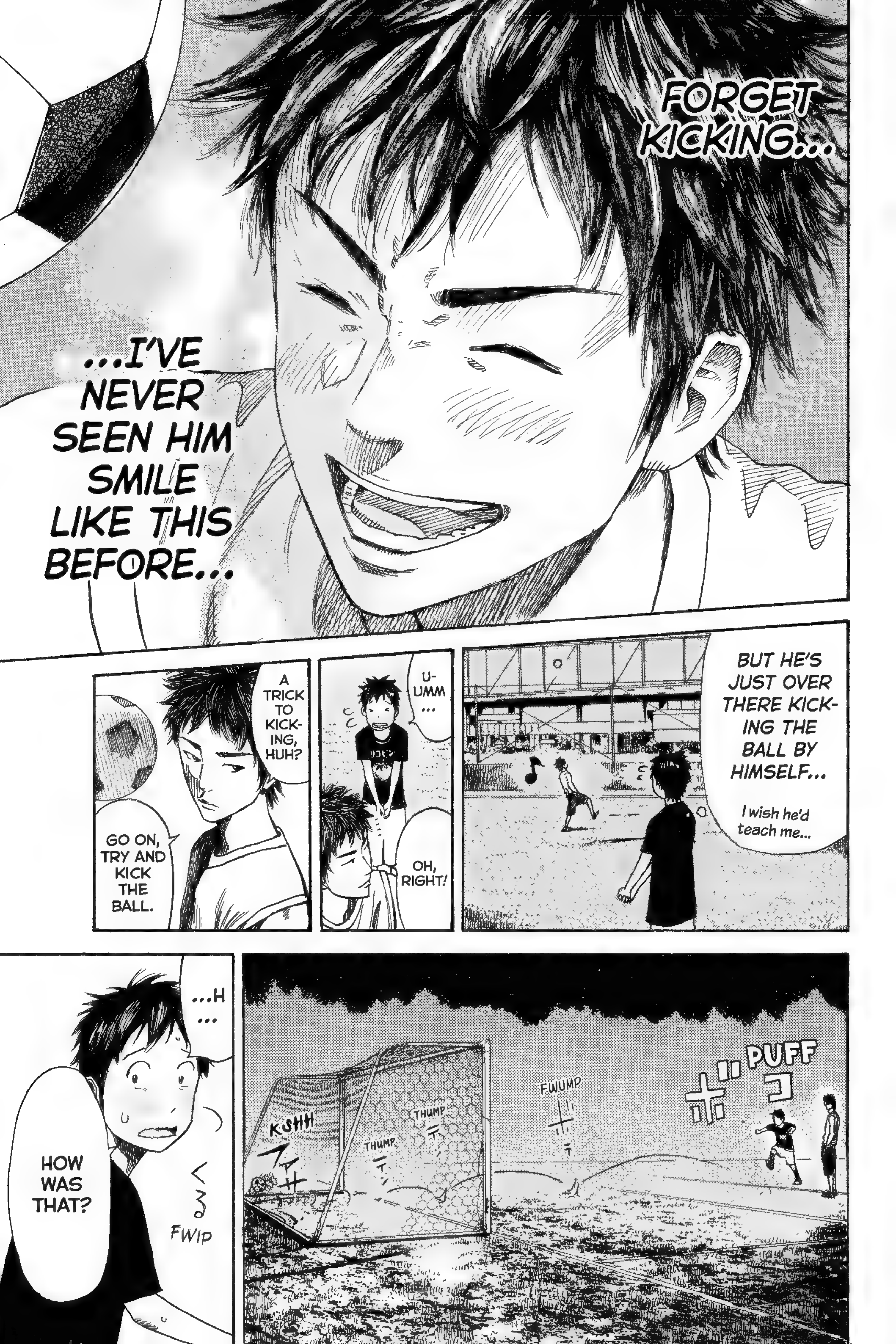

YOU LOST TO THIS GUY.
HE'S ONE OF US. THE PRIDE OF SEISEKI...!!

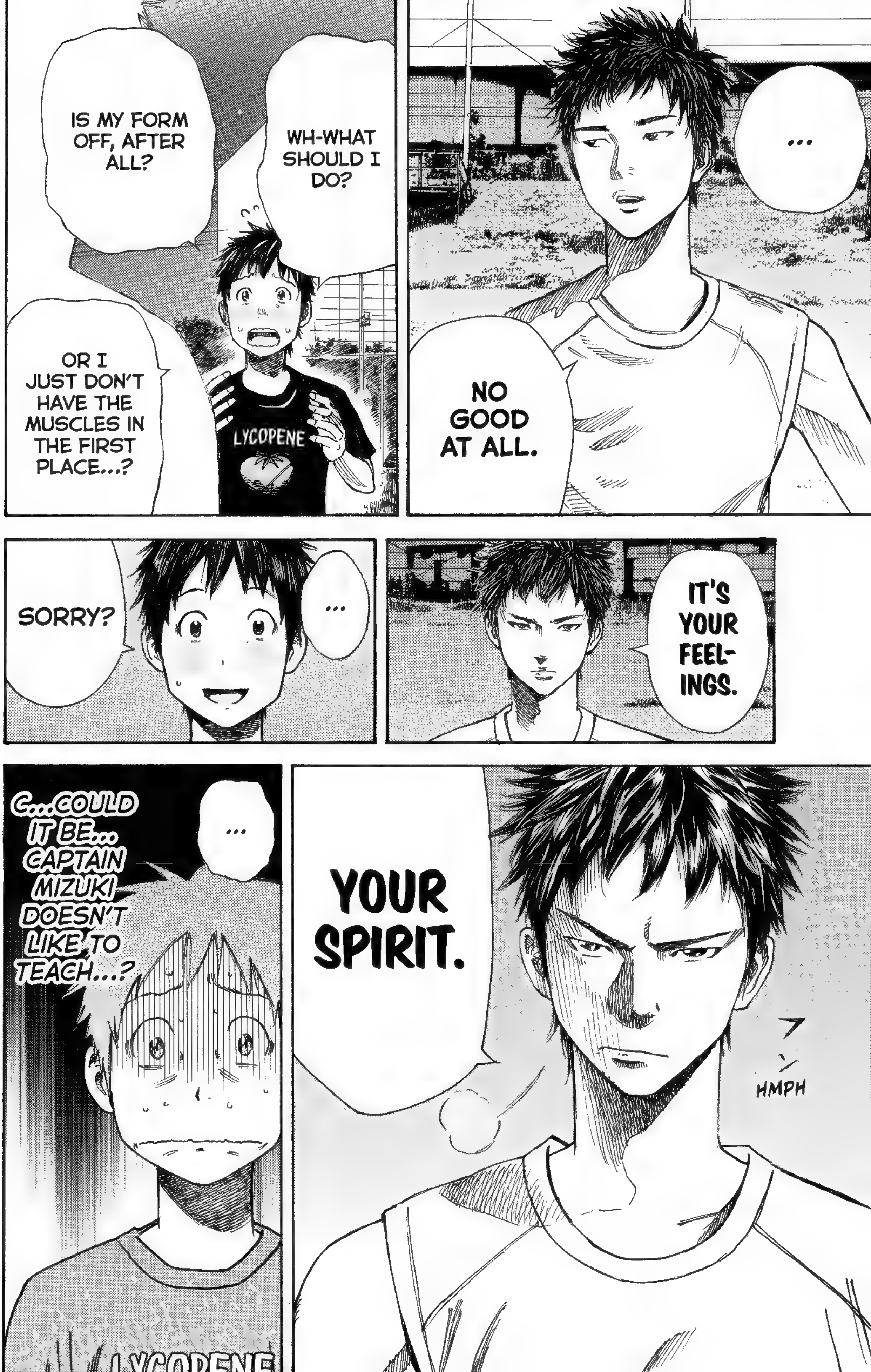

...
GUYS...
STARE
WE...
SLUMP
WE KNOW...
WE... WE DID IT!
W-WE WON, HUH?
THANKS, GUYS!
H- HUH? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TSUKAMOTO, YOU IDIOT! DIDN'T WE TELL YOU?! YOUR POSITION IS FORWARD!!
...
THINK OF THE BALANCE OF THE FIELD!!
WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY BACK TO OUR GOAL?!
I'M THE ONLY SECOND-YEAR HERE, YOU KNOW!!
WE BUSTED OUR ASSES COVERING FOR YOU!!
WE ALMOST LOST 'CAUSE OF YOU!!
I WANT TO PLAY *SMART*, TSUKAMOTO!!

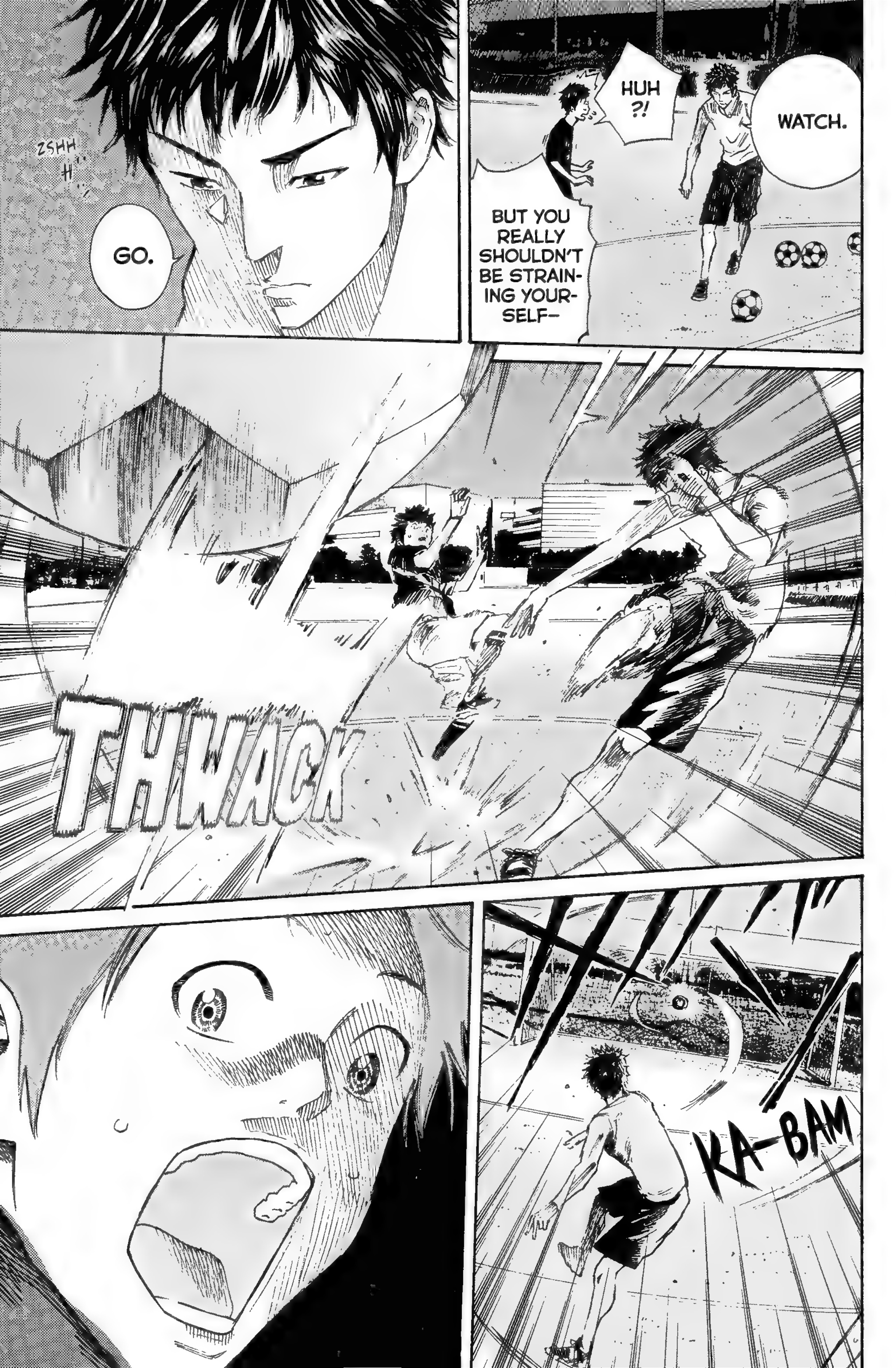
10th Day: Training Camp (4)

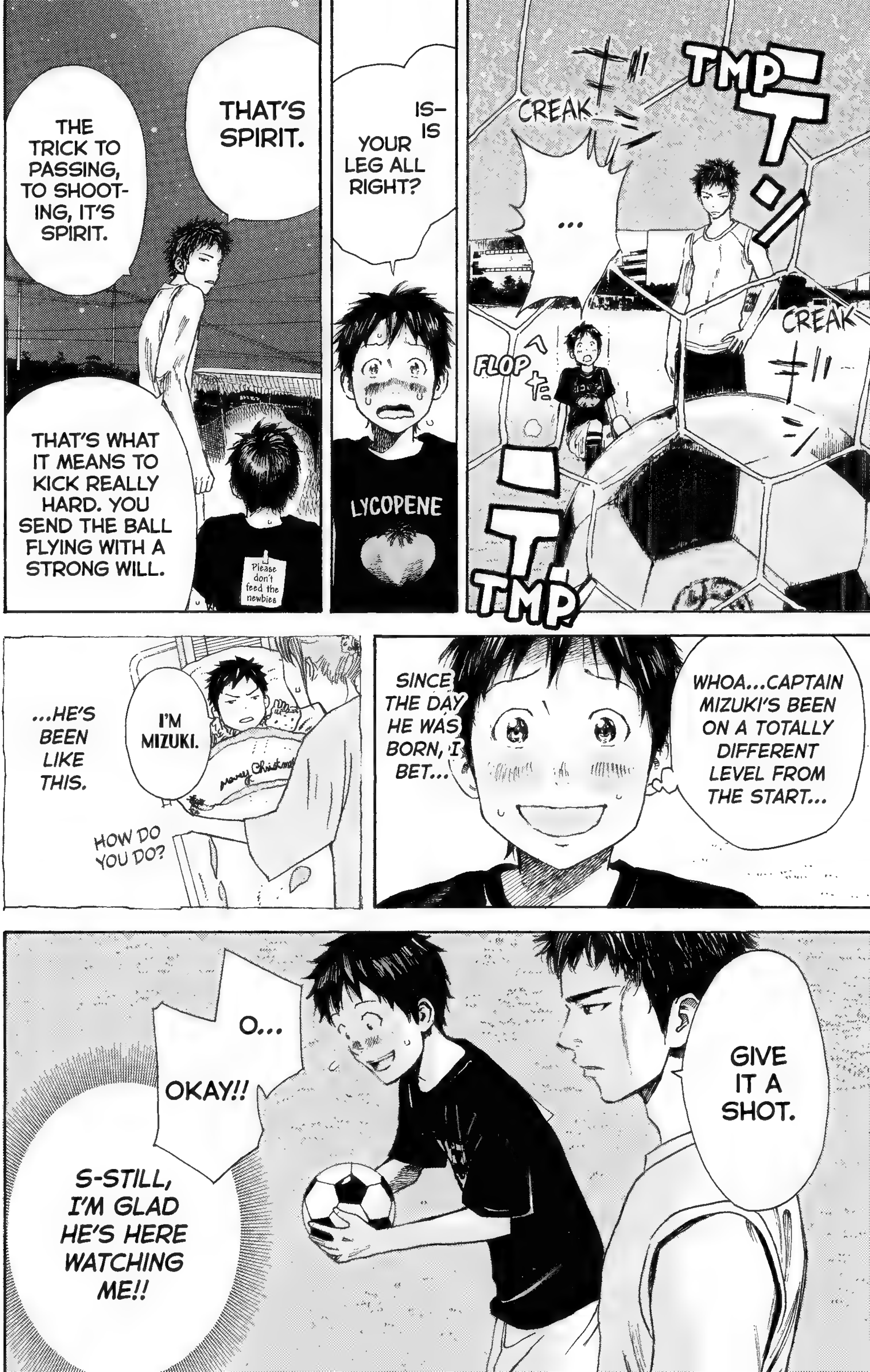

TRAINING CAMP, DAY TWO, NIGHT
YOU WANT TO KICK THE BALL REAL HARD?
Y-YES... SORRY, I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN.
MAYBE IT'S RUDE OF ME TO ASK, BUT I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT MYSELF...
I FIGURED IF I ASKED YOU, CAPTAIN, MAYBE YOU COULD EXPLAIN THE THEORY BEHIND IT...
...AND MAKE IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND...
IS...IS THERE SOME KIND OF TRICK TO KICKING?
...
I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO FOR THEORY.
SORRY. GO ASK SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M...
I'M SORRY!!
THEY SAID IT WAS OKAY FOR US TO USE THE GROUNDS SINCE WE'RE TRAINING, SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
I'M GONNA GO KICK THE BALL BY MYSELF.
JOLT

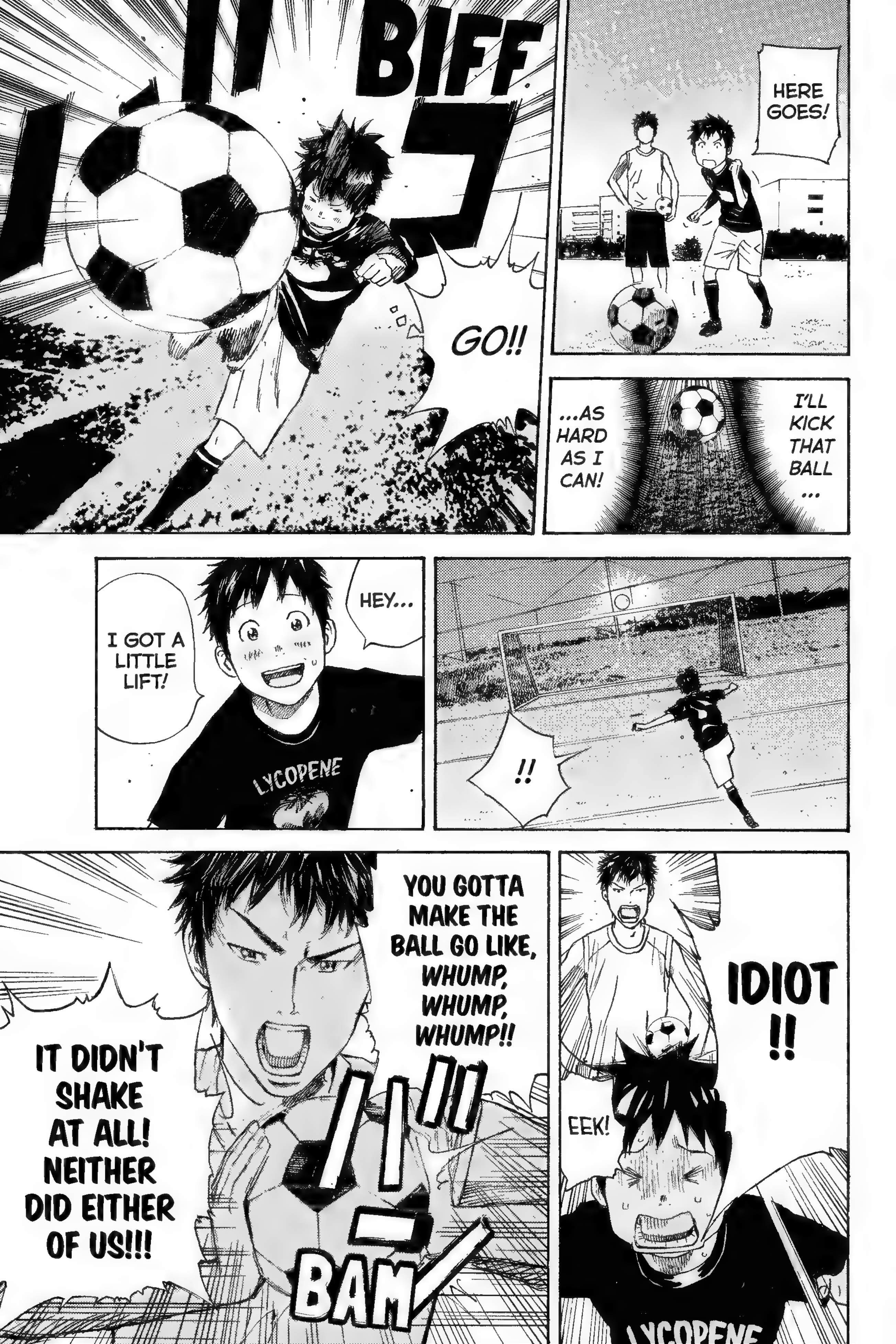

ALL RIGHT! WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE, THEN?
HUH?!
BUT, CAPTAIN, WON'T YOU GET IN TROUBLE FOR KICKING?
Your injury...
ONLY IF THE DIRECTOR FINDS OUT!
WHOA!
I'VE NEVER SEEN CAPTAIN MIZUKI KICK BEFORE...

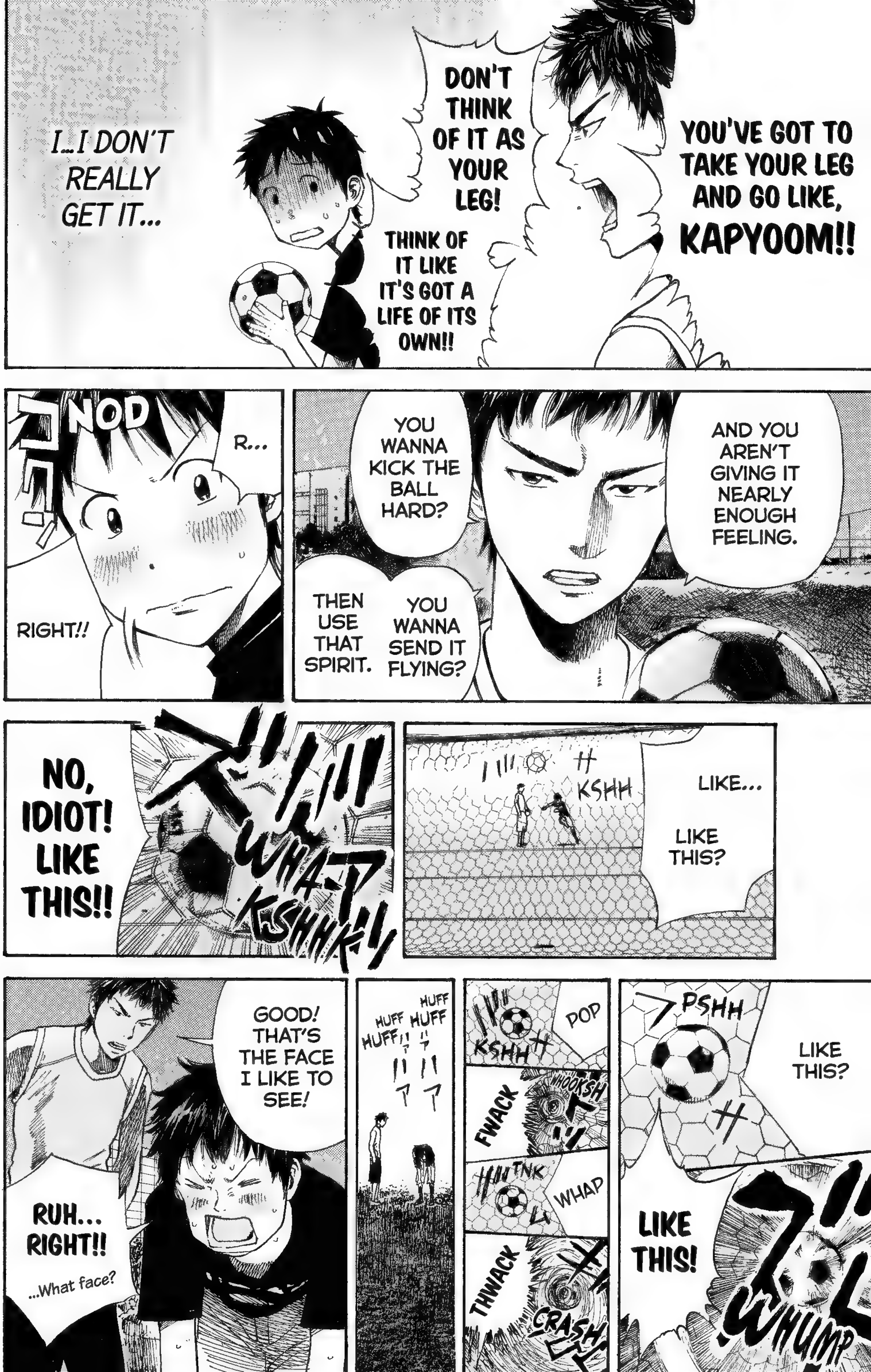

FORGET KICKING...
...I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SMILE LIKE THIS BEFORE...
BUT HE'S JUST OVER THERE KICKING THE BALL BY HIMSELF...
I wish he'd teach me...
U-UMM...
OH, RIGHT!
A TRICK TO KICKING, HUH?
GO ON, TRY AND KICK THE BALL.
ボコ
PUFF
FWUMP
THUMP
THUMP
KSHH
...H...
HOW WAS THAT?
くる
FWIP

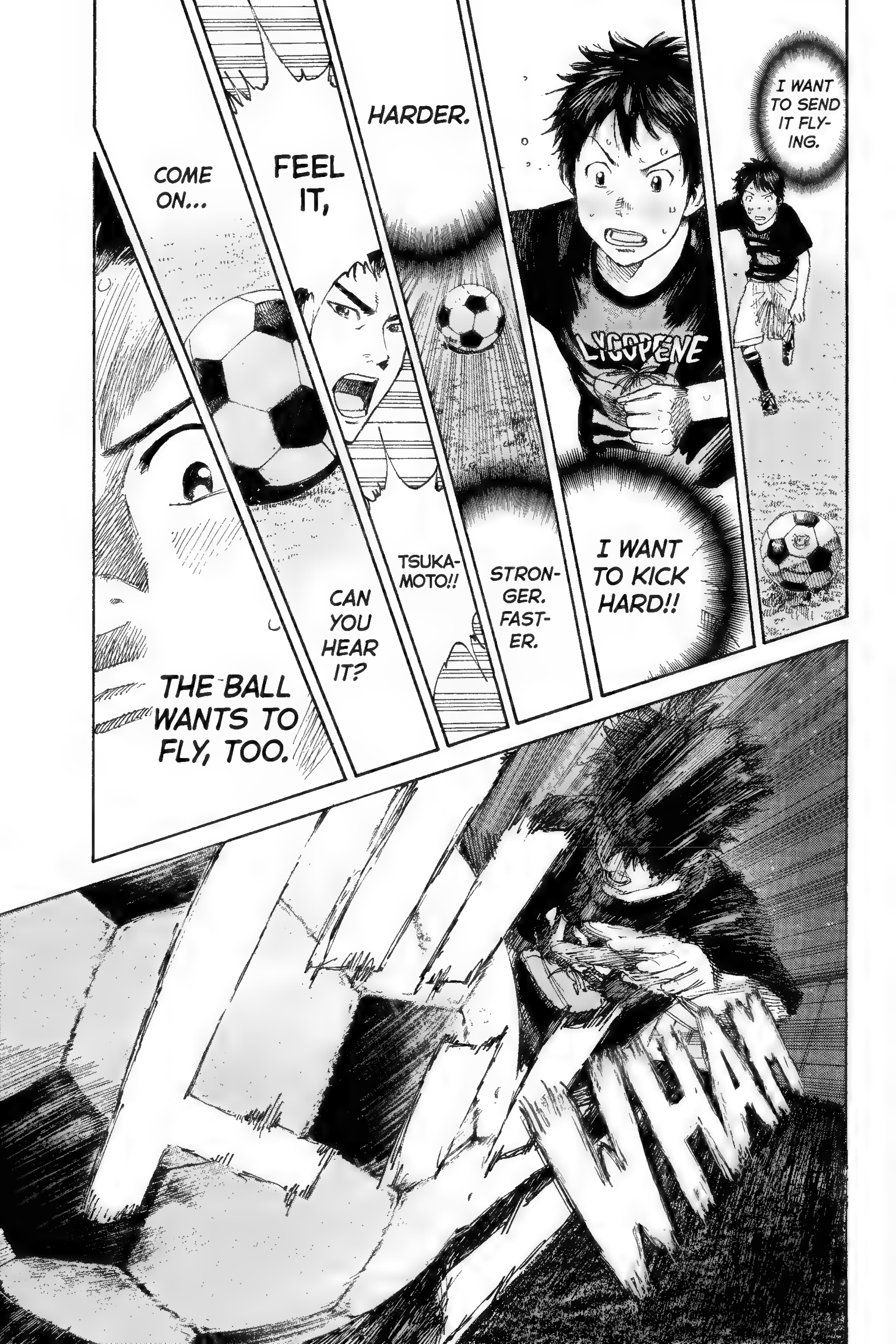

IS MY FORM OFF, AFTER ALL?
OR I JUST DON'T HAVE THE MUSCLES IN THE FIRST PLACE...?
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LYCOPENE
...
NO GOOD AT ALL.
SORRY?
...
IT'S YOUR FEELINGS.
YOUR SPIRIT.
HMPH
...
C...COULD IT BE... CAPTAIN MIZUKI DOESN'T LIKE TO TEACH...?
LYCOPENE

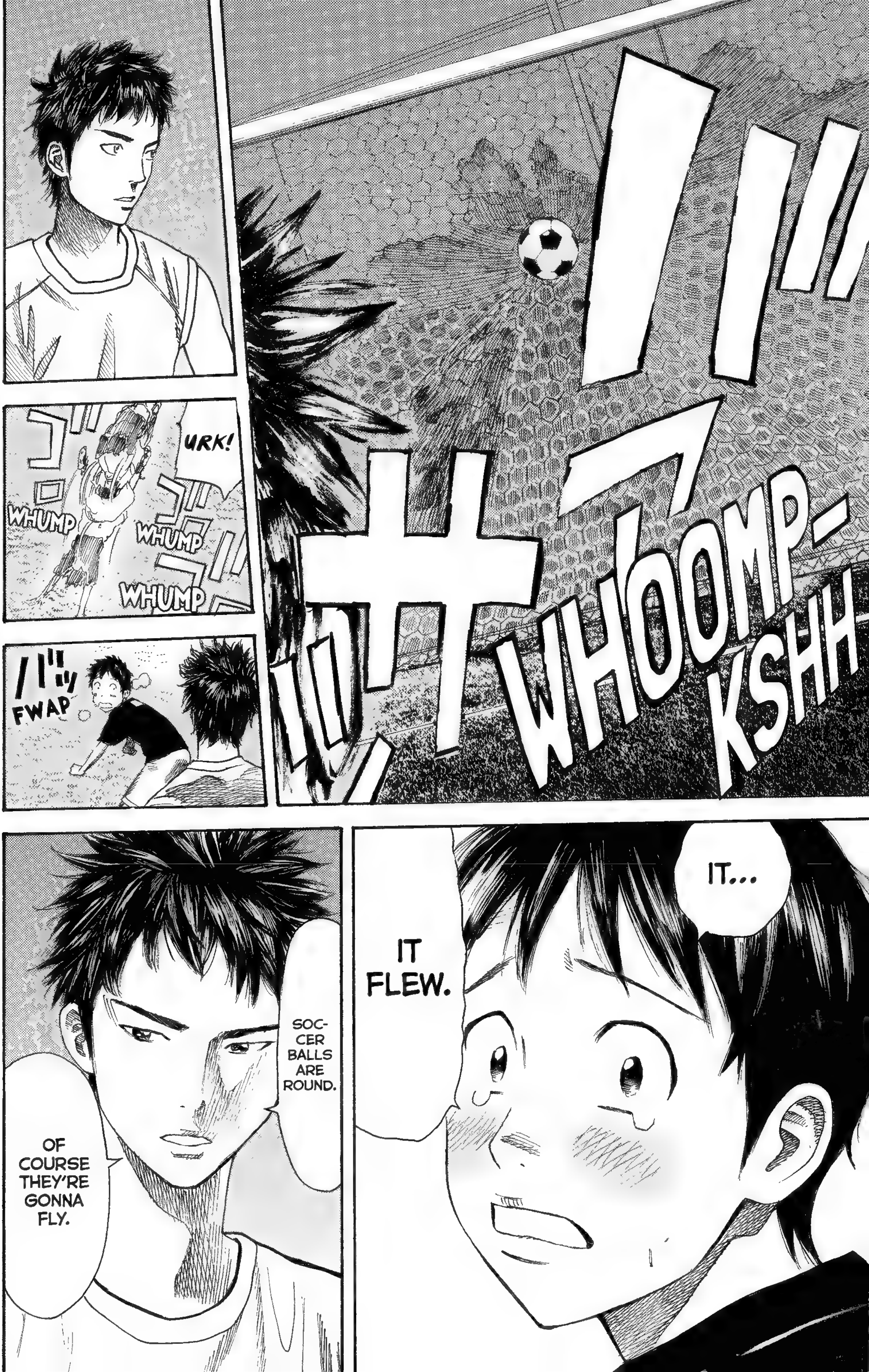

WATCH.
HUH ?!
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE STRAINING YOURSELF—
ZSHH H
GO.
THWACK
KA-BAM

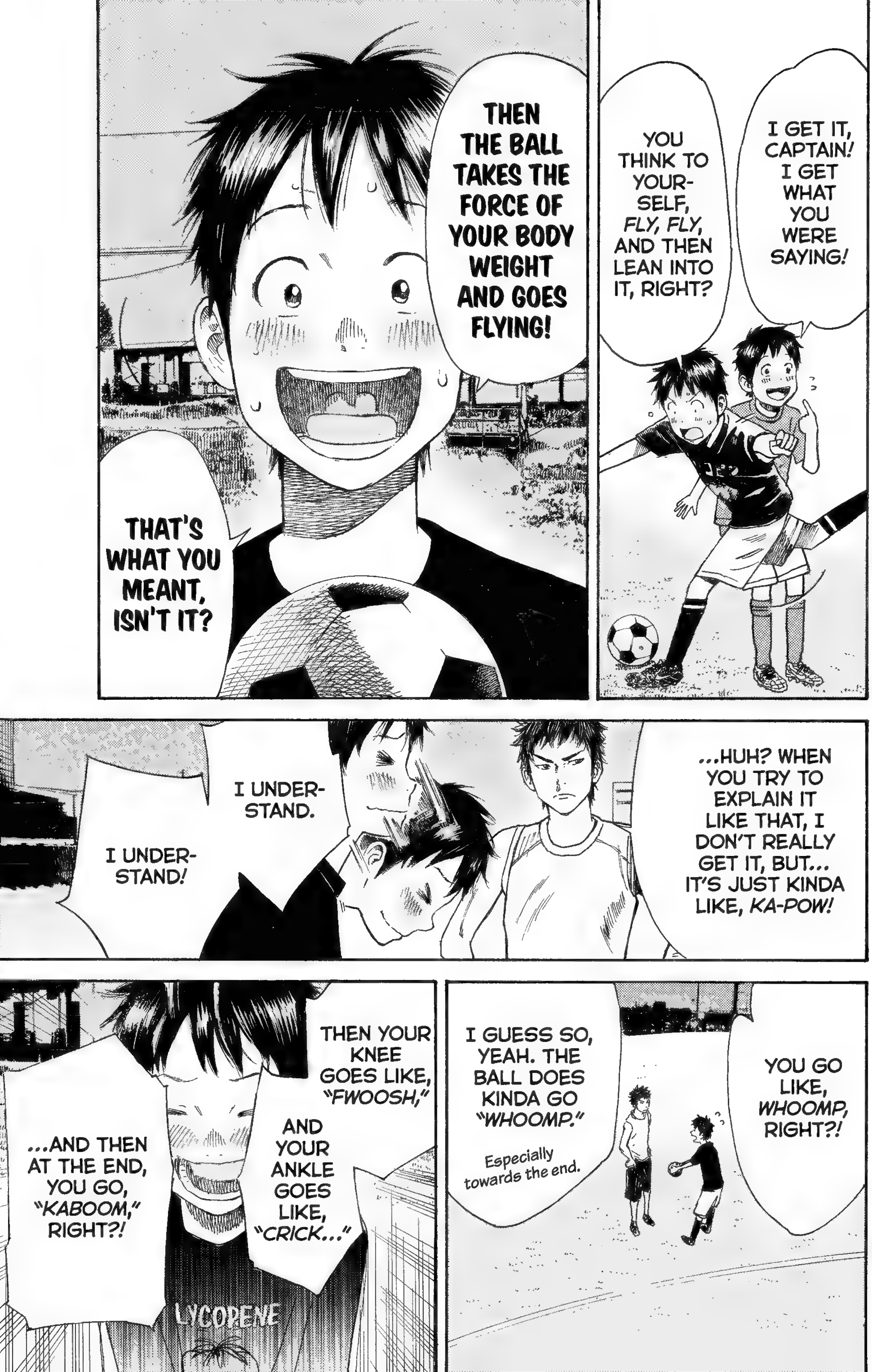

TMP
CREAK
...
CREAK
FLOP
TMP
IS–IS YOUR LEG ALL RIGHT?
LYCOPENE
THAT'S SPIRIT.
THE TRICK TO PASSING, TO SHOOTING, IT'S SPIRIT.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO KICK REALLY HARD. YOU SEND THE BALL FLYING WITH A STRONG WILL.
Please don't feed the newbies
WHOA...CAPTAIN MIZUKI'S BEEN ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM THE START...
SINCE THE DAY HE WAS BORN, I BET...
...HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS.
I'M MIZUKI.
merry Christmas
HOW DO YOU DO?
GIVE IT A SHOT.
O...
OKAY!!
S-STILL, I'M GLAD HE'S HERE WATCHING ME!!

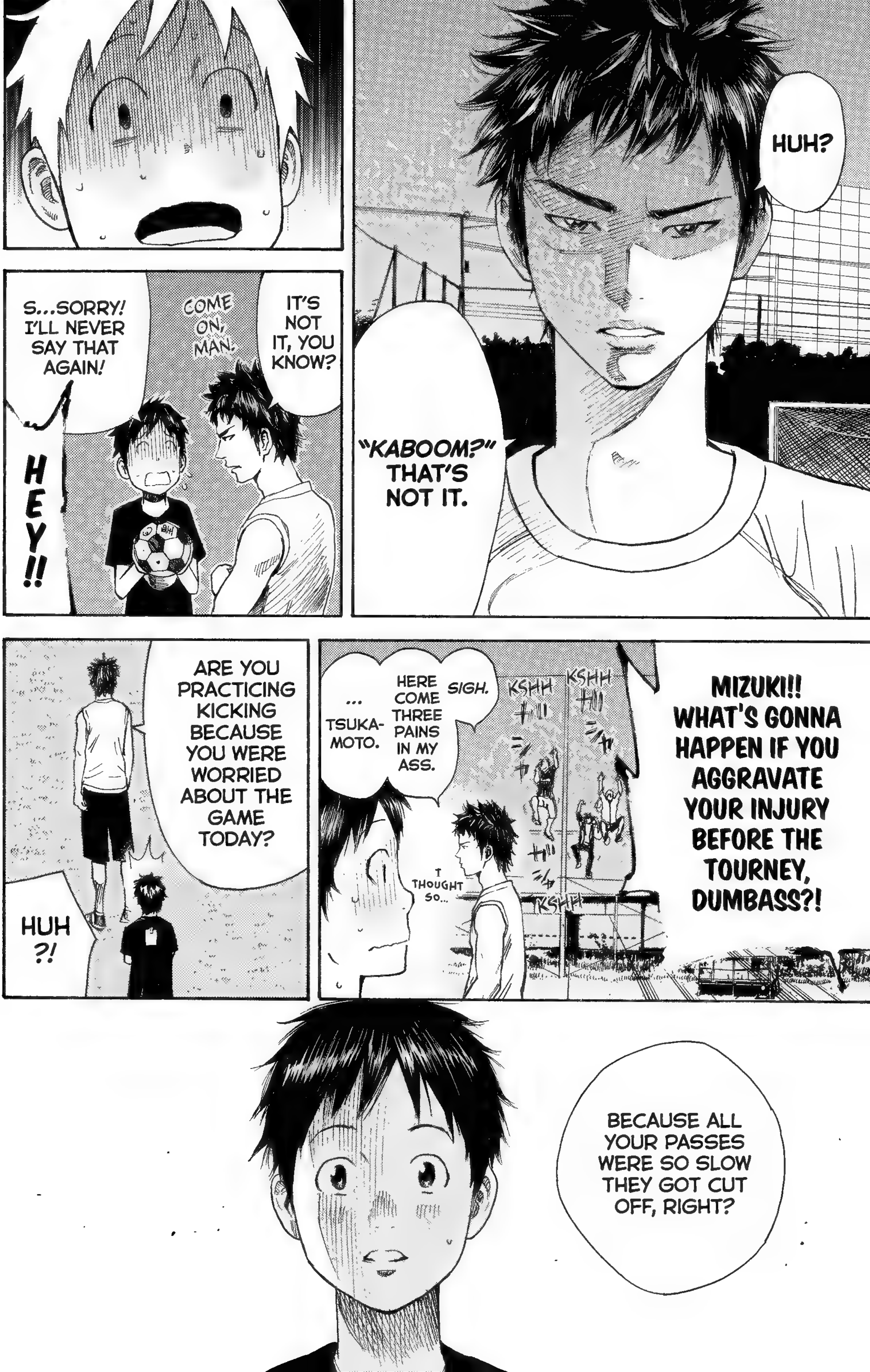

HERE GOES!
I'LL KICK THAT BALL ...
...AS HARD AS I CAN!
BIFF
GO!!
!!
HEY...
I GOT A LITTLE LIFT!
LYCOPENE
IDIOT !!
EEK!
LYCOPENE
YOU GOTTA MAKE THE BALL GO LIKE, WHUMP, WHUMP, WHUMP!!
BAM
IT DIDN'T SHAKE AT ALL! NEITHER DID EITHER OF US!!!

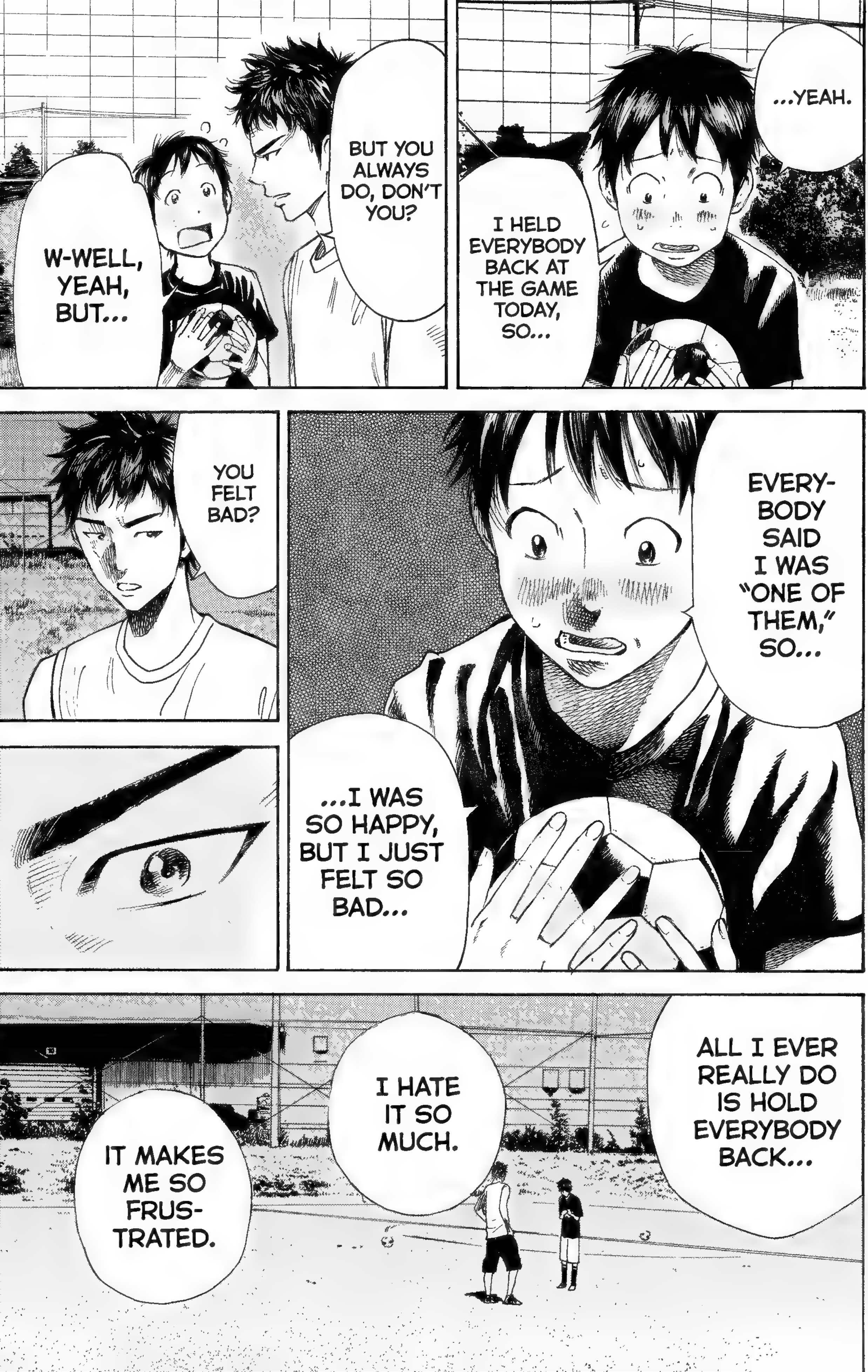

YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE YOUR LEG AND GO LIKE, KAPYOOM!!
DON'T THINK OF IT AS YOUR LEG!
THINK OF IT LIKE IT'S GOT A LIFE OF ITS OWN!!
I...I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
AND YOU AREN'T GIVING IT NEARLY ENOUGH FEELING.
YOU WANNA KICK THE BALL HARD?
YOU WANNA SEND IT FLYING?
THEN USE THAT SPIRIT.
NOD
R...
RIGHT!!
LIKE...
LIKE THIS?
KSHH
NO, IDIOT! LIKE THIS!!
WHA-KSHHK
PSHH
LIKE THIS?
LIKE THIS!
WHUMP
POP
KSHH
WHOOKSH
FWACK
TNK
WHAP
THWACK
CRASH
HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
GOOD! THAT'S THE FACE I LIKE TO SEE!
RUH... RIGHT!!
...What face?

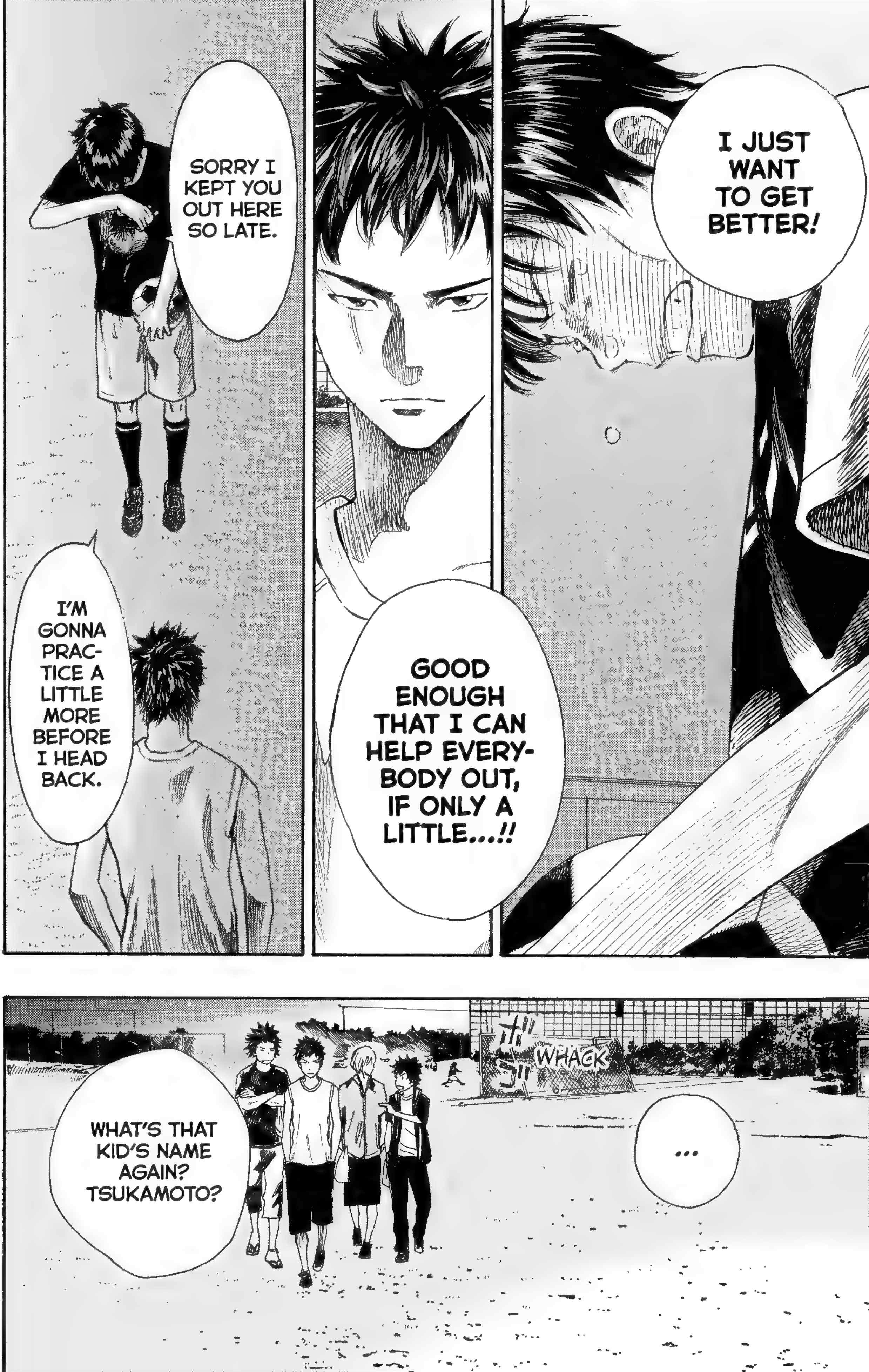

I WANT TO SEND IT FLYING.
I WANT TO KICK HARD!!
LYCOPENE
STRONGER. FASTER.
HARDER.
TSUKAMOTO!!
FEEL IT,
CAN YOU HEAR IT?
COME ON...
THE BALL WANTS TO FLY, TOO.
WHAM

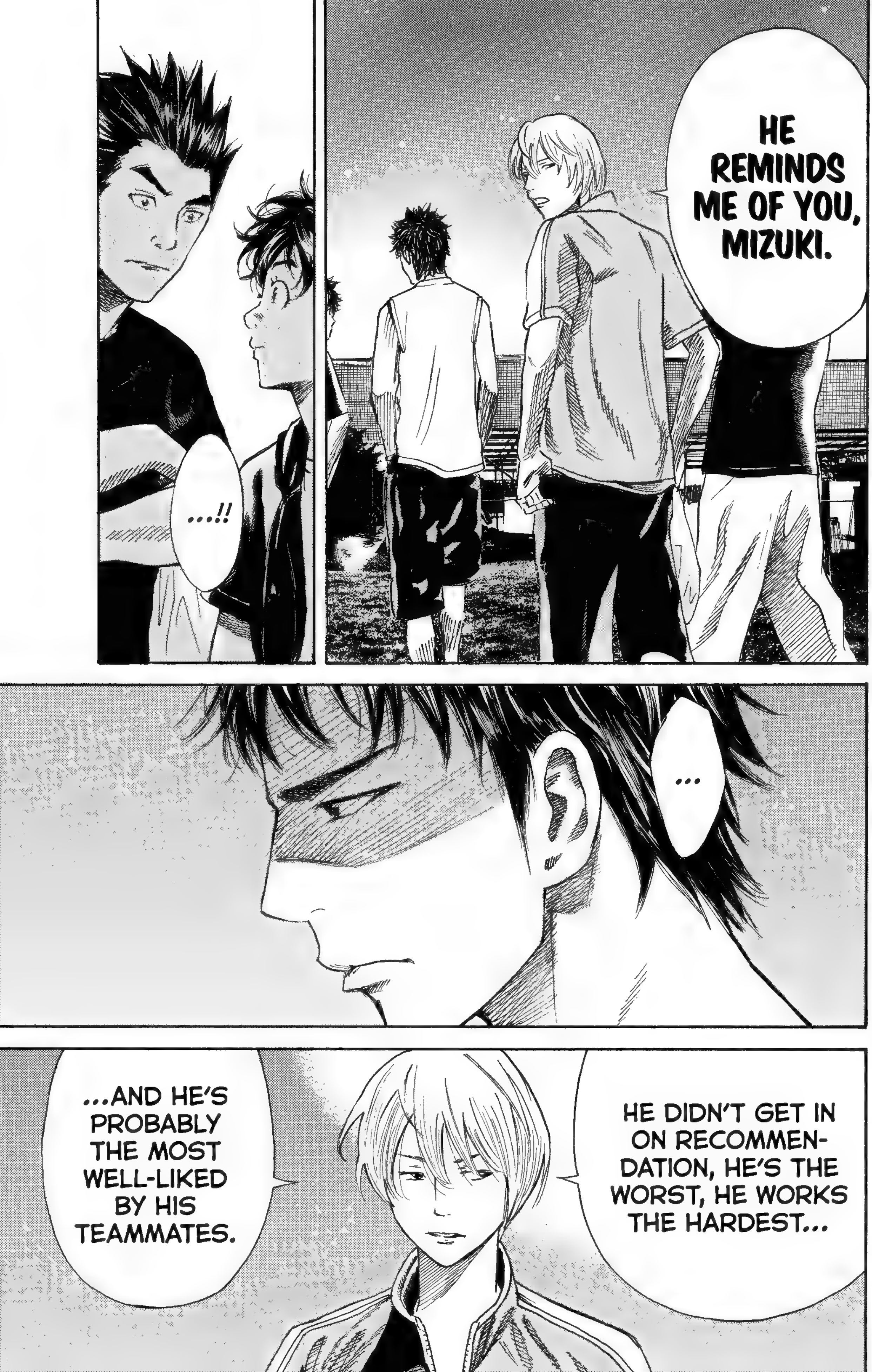

WHOOMP-KSHH
URK!
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
FWAP
IT...
IT FLEW.
SOCCER BALLS ARE ROUND.
OF COURSE THEY'RE GONNA FLY.

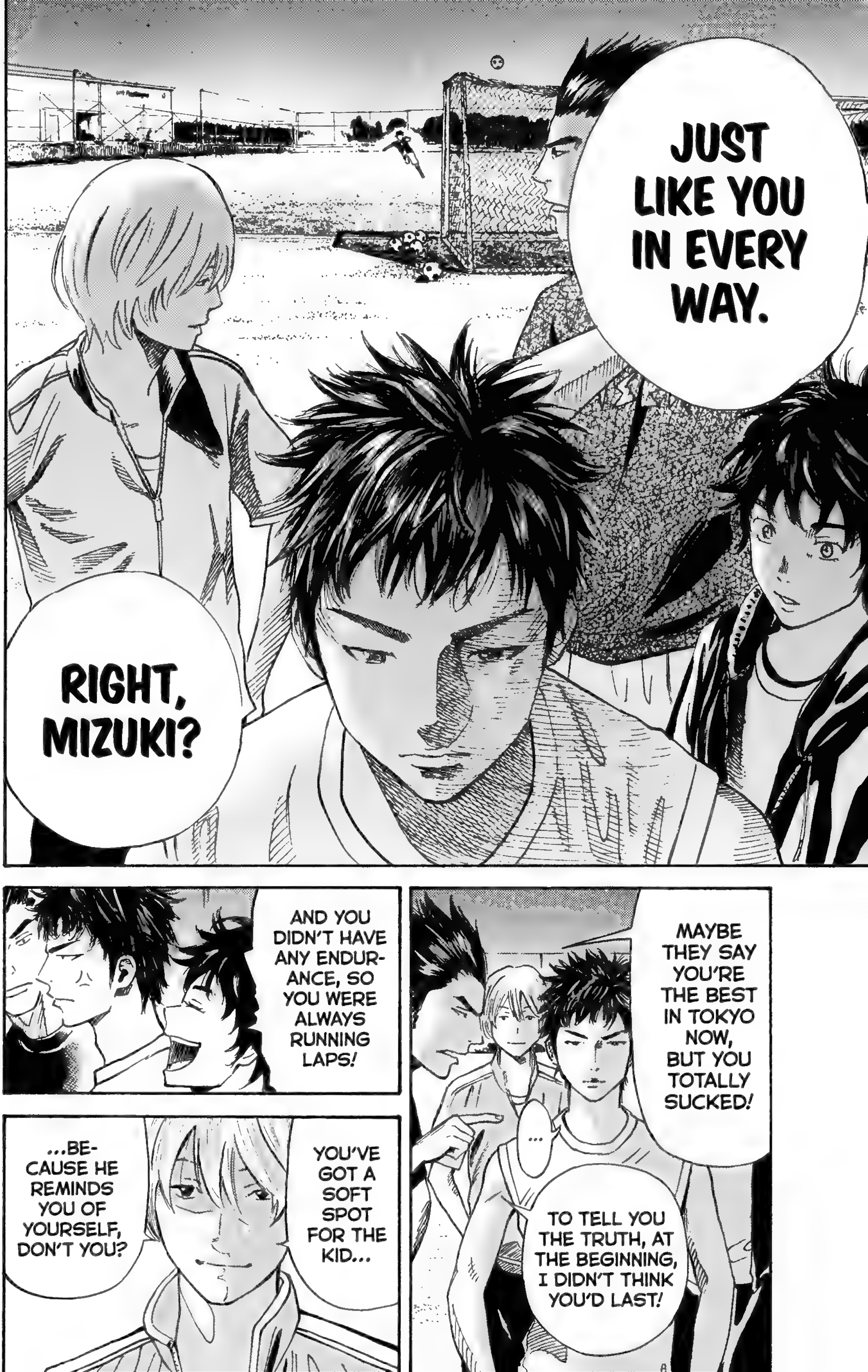

I GET IT, CAPTAIN! I GET WHAT YOU WERE SAYING!
YOU THINK TO YOURSELF, *FLY, FLY,* AND THEN LEAN INTO IT, RIGHT?
THEN THE BALL TAKES THE FORCE OF YOUR BODY WEIGHT AND GOES FLYING!
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT, ISN'T IT?
...HUH? WHEN YOU TRY TO EXPLAIN IT LIKE THAT, I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT... IT'S JUST KINDA LIKE, *KA-POW!*
I UNDERSTAND.
I UNDERSTAND!
YOU GO LIKE, *WHOOMP,* RIGHT?!
I GUESS SO, YEAH. THE BALL DOES KINDA GO "*WHOOMP.*"
Especially towards the end.
THEN YOUR KNEE GOES LIKE, "*FWOOSH,*"
AND YOUR ANKLE GOES LIKE, "*CRICK...*"
...AND THEN AT THE END, YOU GO, "*KABOOM,*" RIGHT?!
LYCOPENE

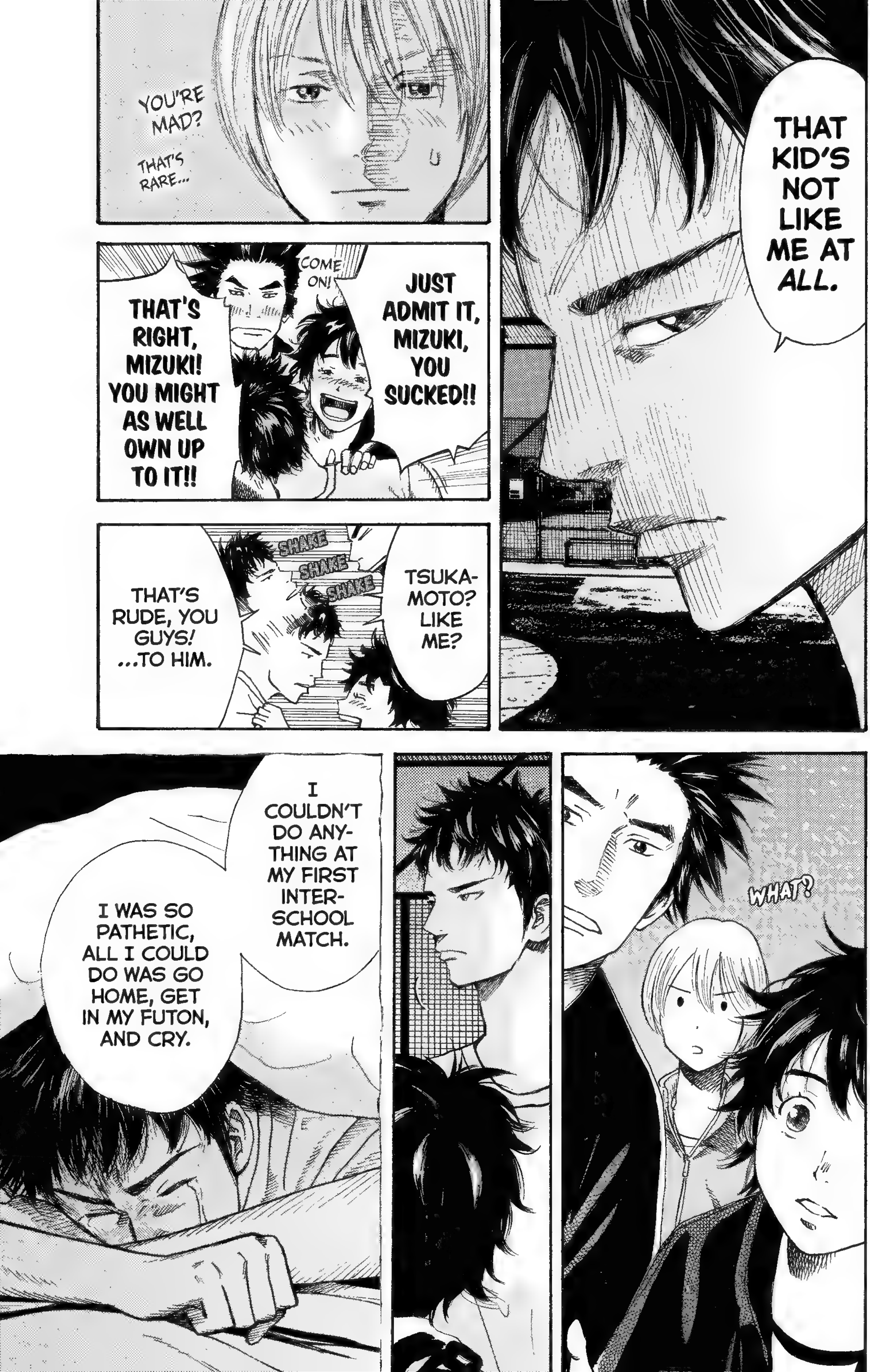

HUH?
"KABOOM?" THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S NOT IT, YOU KNOW?
COME ON, MAN.
S...SORRY! I'LL NEVER SAY THAT AGAIN!
HEY!!
MIZUKI!! WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IF YOU AGGRAVATE YOUR INJURY BEFORE THE TOURNEY, DUMBASS?!
KSHH
KSHH
SIGH.
HERE COME THREE PAINS IN MY ASS.
... TSUKAMOTO.
I THOUGHT SO...
KSHH
ARE YOU PRACTICING KICKING BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE GAME TODAY?
HUH?!
BECAUSE ALL YOUR PASSES WERE SO SLOW THEY GOT CUT OFF, RIGHT?

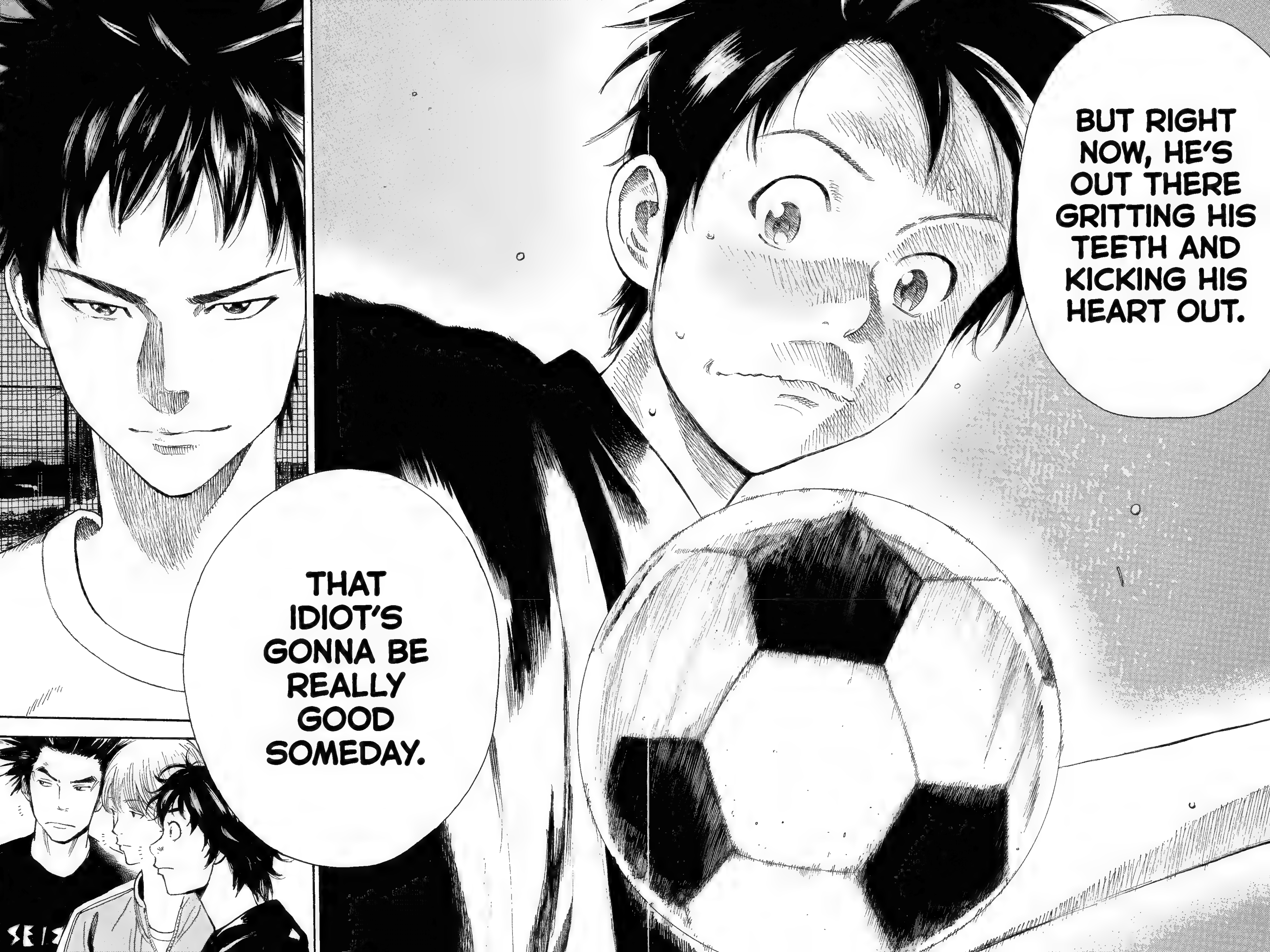

...YEAH.
I HELD EVERYBODY BACK AT THE GAME TODAY, SO...
BUT YOU ALWAYS DO, DON'T YOU?
W-WELL, YEAH, BUT...
EVERYBODY SAID I WAS "ONE OF THEM," SO...
...I WAS SO HAPPY, BUT I JUST FELT SO BAD...
YOU FELT BAD?
ALL I EVER REALLY DO IS HOLD EVERYBODY BACK...
I HATE IT SO MUCH.
IT MAKES ME SO FRUSTRATED.

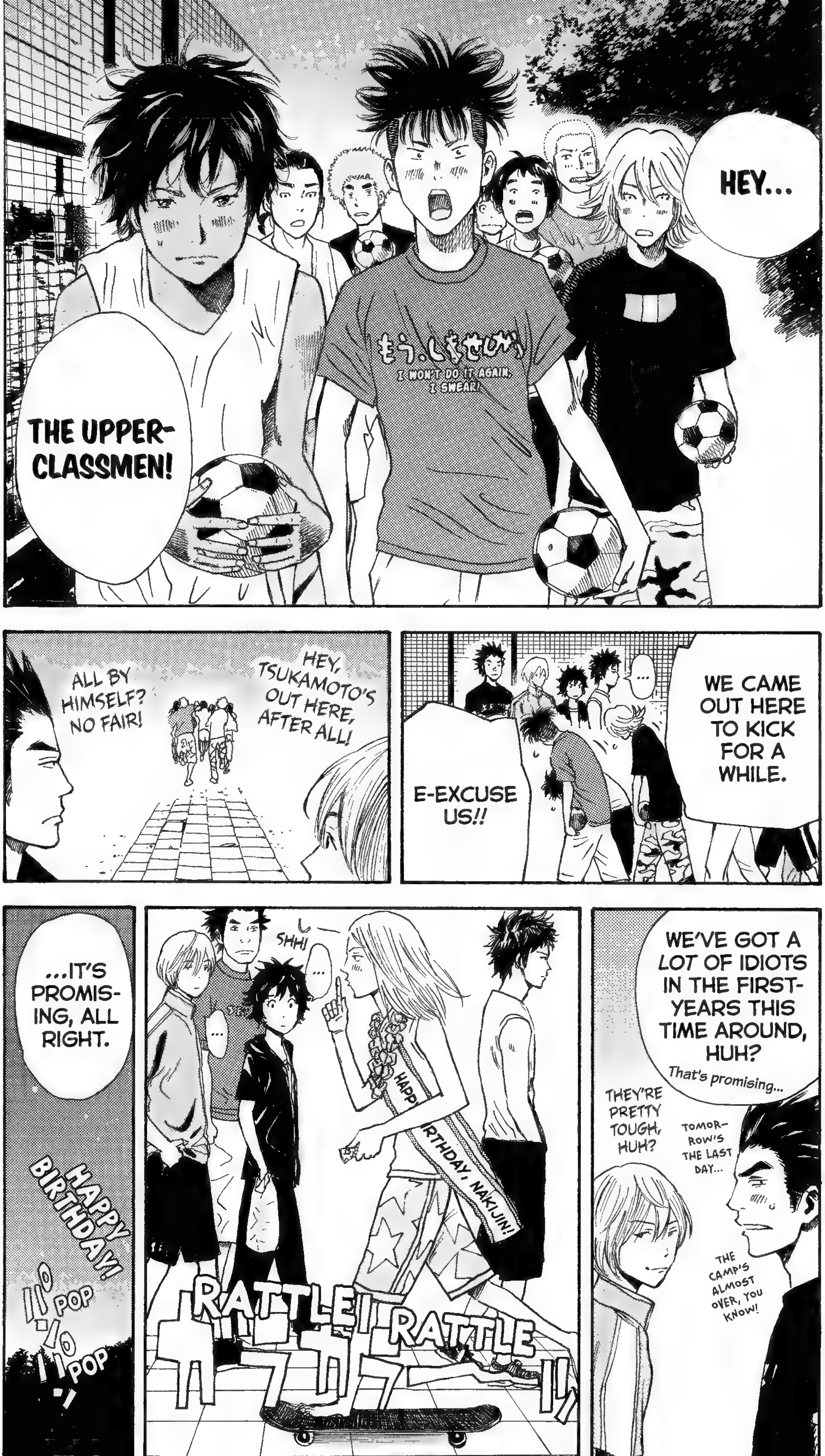

I JUST WANT TO GET BETTER!
GOOD ENOUGH THAT I CAN HELP EVERYBODY OUT, IF ONLY A LITTLE...!!
SORRY I KEPT YOU OUT HERE SO LATE.
I'M GONNA PRACTICE A LITTLE MORE BEFORE I HEAD BACK.
WHACK
...
WHAT'S THAT KID'S NAME AGAIN? TSUKAMOTO?


HE REMINDS ME OF YOU, MIZUKI.
...!!
...
HE DIDN'T GET IN ON RECOMMENDATION, HE'S THE WORST, HE WORKS THE HARDEST...
...AND HE'S PROBABLY THE MOST WELL-LIKED BY HIS TEAMMATES.

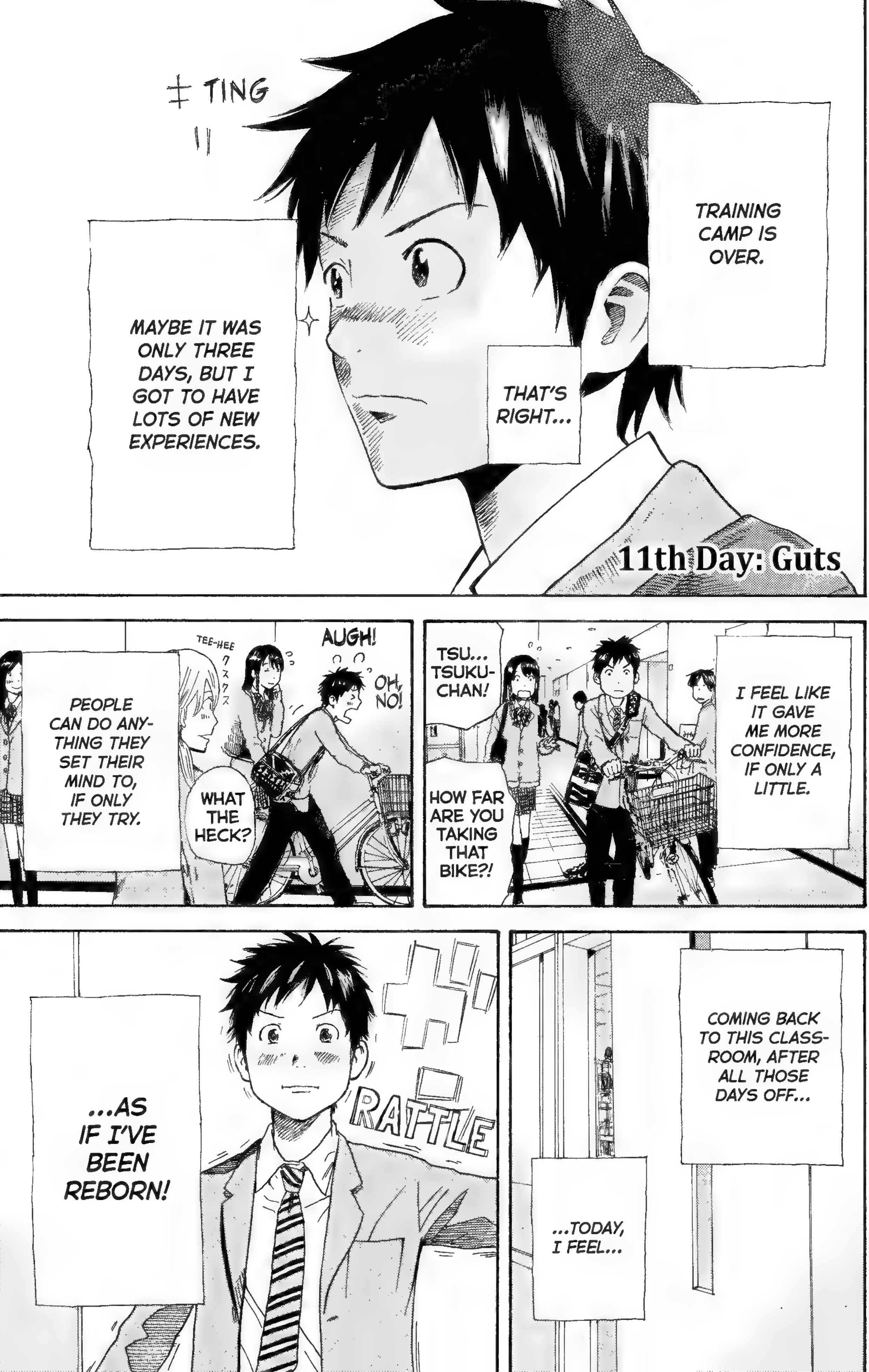

JUST LIKE YOU IN EVERY WAY.
RIGHT, MIZUKI?
MAYBE THEY SAY YOU'RE THE BEST IN TOKYO NOW, BUT YOU TOTALLY SUCKED!
...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, AT THE BEGINNING, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D LAST!
AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY ENDURANCE, SO YOU WERE ALWAYS RUNNING LAPS!
YOU'VE GOT A SOFT SPOT FOR THE KID...
...BECAUSE HE REMINDS YOU OF YOURSELF, DON'T YOU?

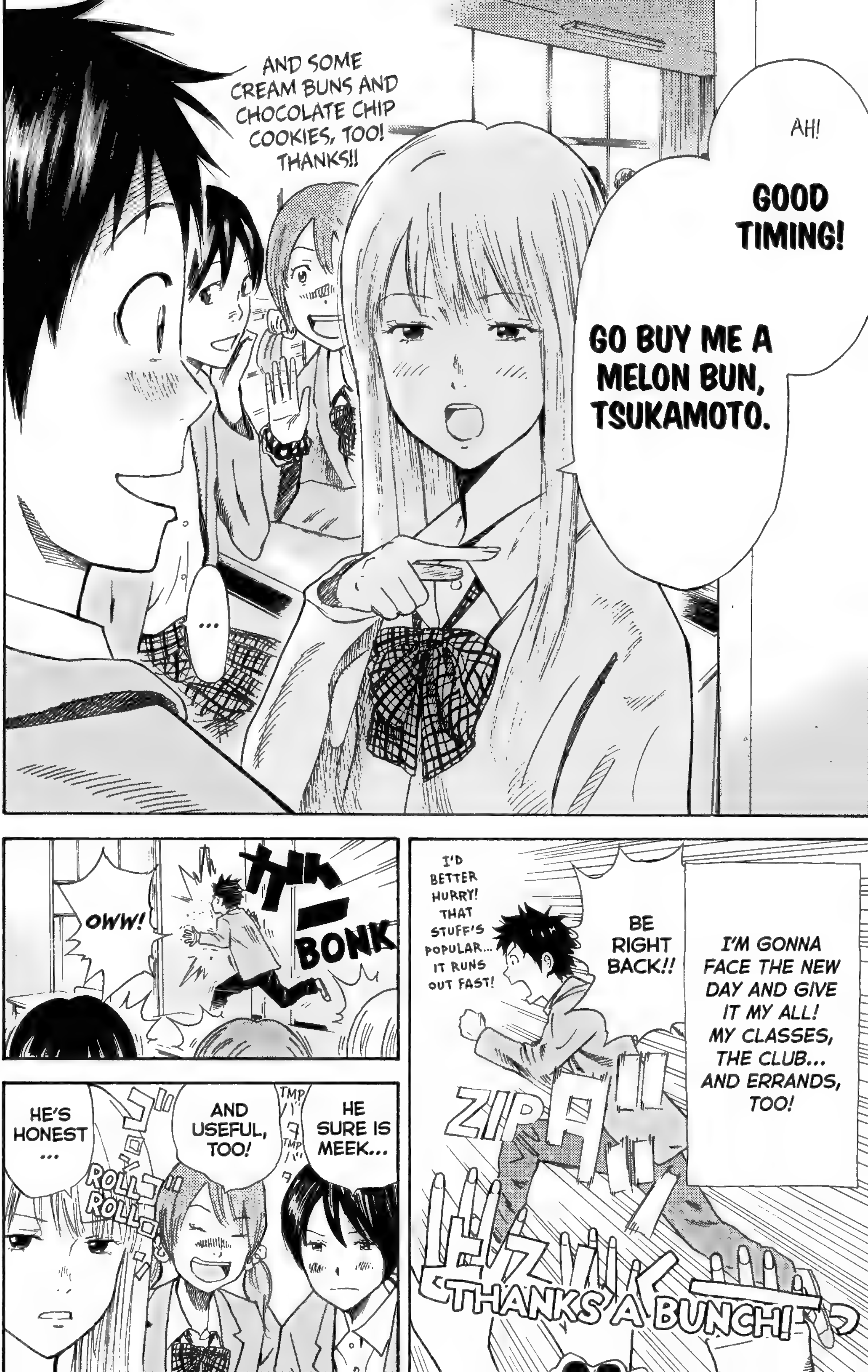

THAT KID'S NOT LIKE ME AT *ALL*.
YOU'RE MAD?
THAT'S RARE...
JUST ADMIT IT, MIZUKI, YOU SUCKED!!
COME ON!
THAT'S RIGHT, MIZUKI! YOU MIGHT AS WELL OWN UP TO IT!!
TSUKAMOTO? LIKE ME?
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
THAT'S RUDE, YOU GUYS! ...TO HIM.
WHAT?
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING AT MY FIRST INTER-SCHOOL MATCH.
I WAS SO PATHETIC, ALL I COULD DO WAS GO HOME, GET IN MY FUTON, AND CRY.

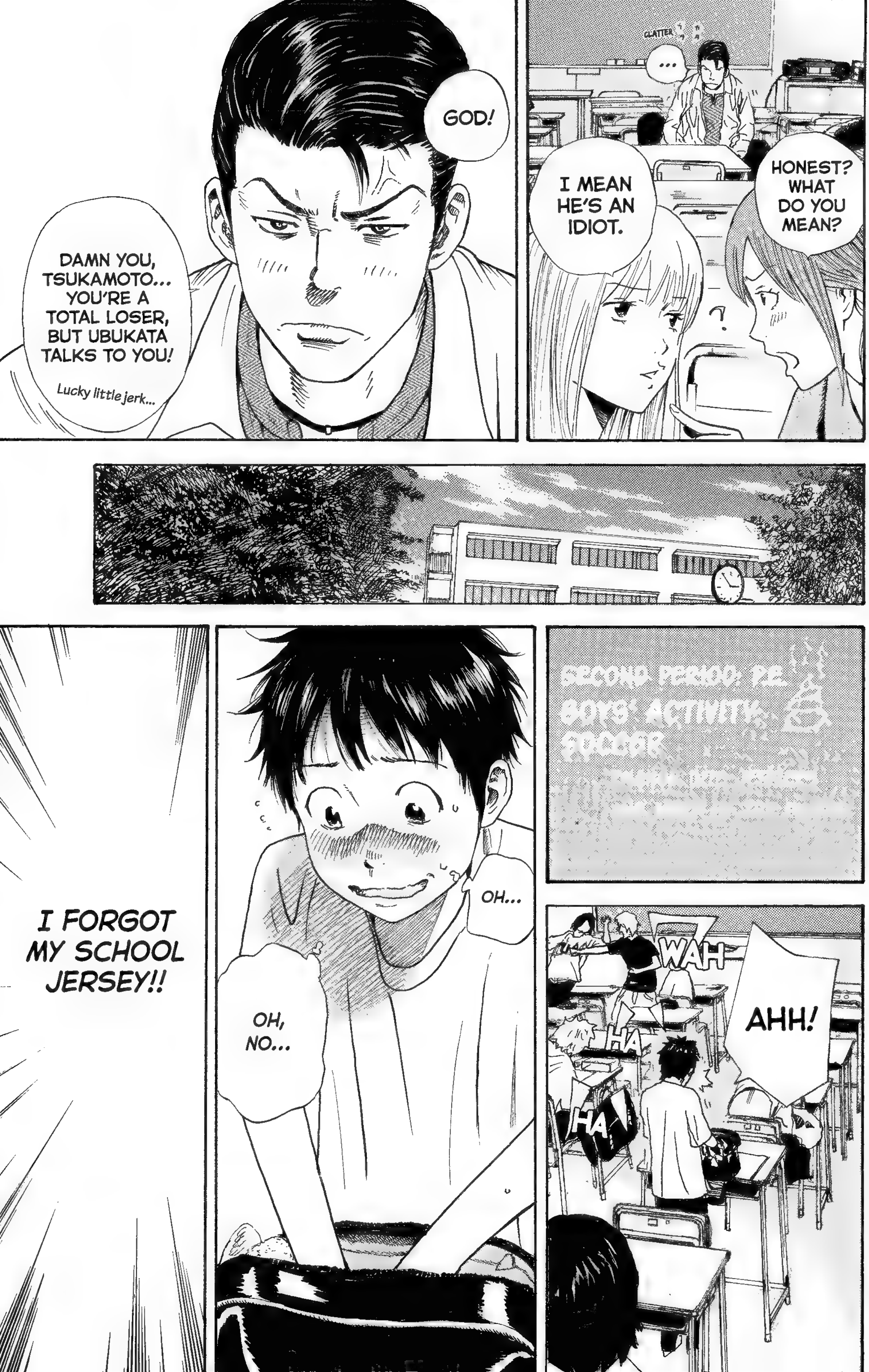

BUT RIGHT NOW, HE'S OUT THERE GRITTING HIS TEETH AND KICKING HIS HEART OUT.
THAT IDIOT'S GONNA BE REALLY GOOD SOMEDAY.

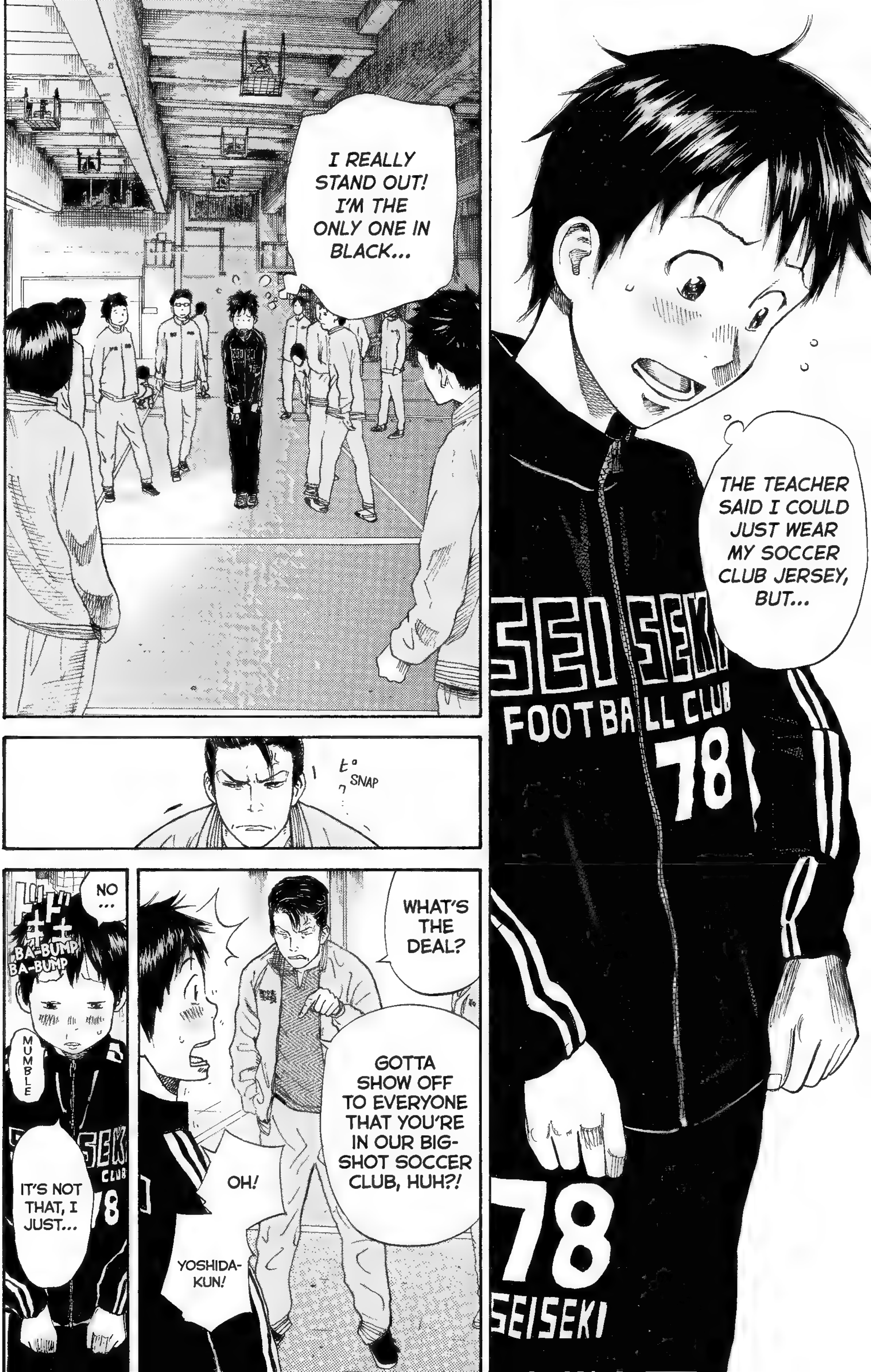

HEY...
THE UPPER-CLASSMEN!
もう、しませんから
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN, I SWEAR!
WE CAME OUT HERE TO KICK FOR A WHILE.
...
E-EXCUSE US!!
HEY, TSUKAMOTO'S OUT HERE, AFTER ALL!
ALL BY HIMSELF? NO FAIR!
WE'VE GOT A *LOT* OF IDIOTS IN THE FIRST-YEARS THIS TIME AROUND, HUH?
That's promising...
THEY'RE PRETTY TOUGH, HUH?
TOMORROW'S THE LAST DAY...
THE CAMP'S ALMOST OVER, YOU KNOW!
SHH!
...
...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NAKIJIN!
RATTLE RATTLE
...IT'S PROMISING, ALL RIGHT.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
POP
POP

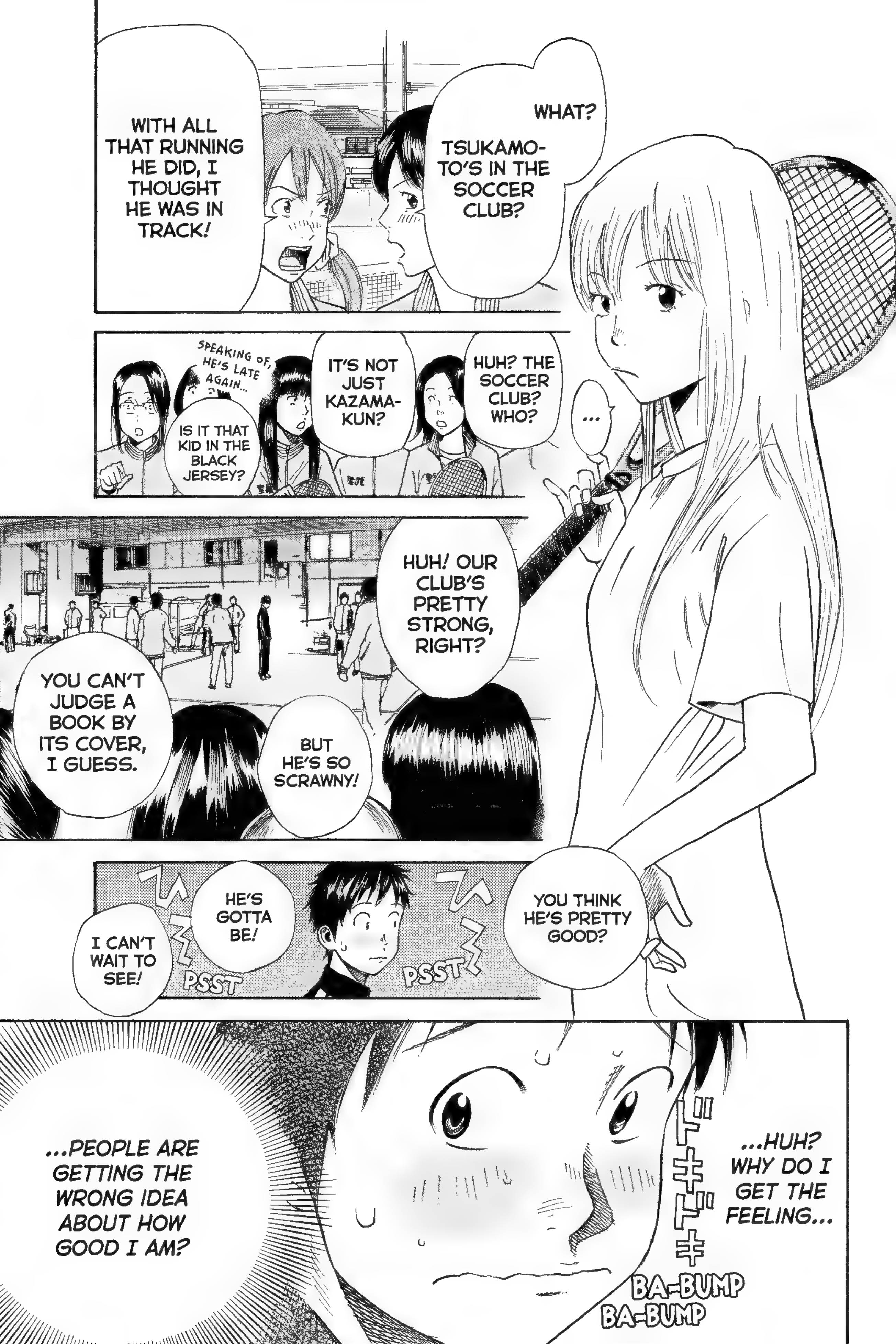
11th Day: Guts

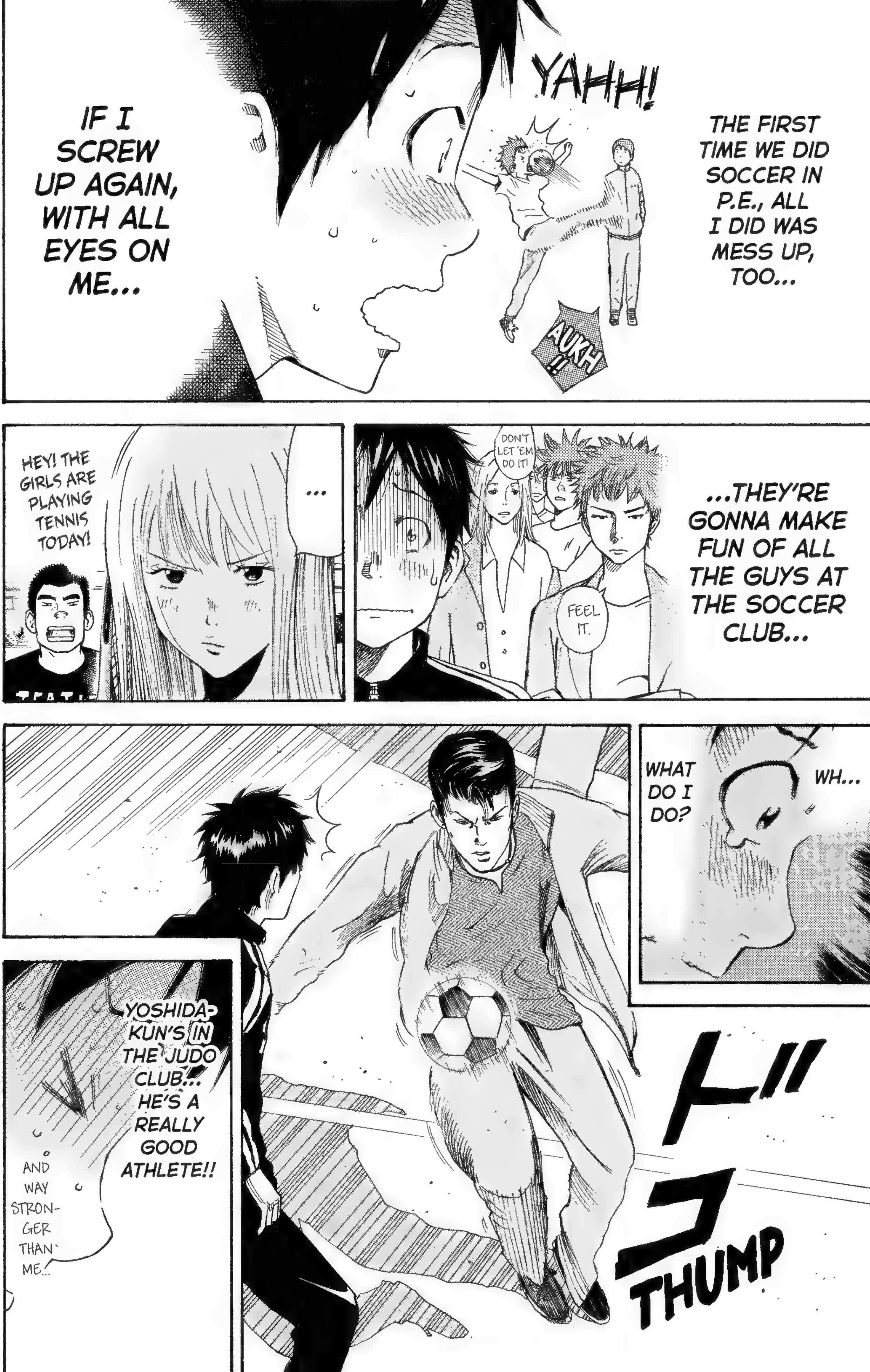

TRAINING CAMP IS OVER.
THAT'S RIGHT...
MAYBE IT WAS ONLY THREE DAYS, BUT I GOT TO HAVE LOTS OF NEW EXPERIENCES.
TING
I FEEL LIKE IT GAVE ME MORE CONFIDENCE, IF ONLY A LITTLE.
TSU... TSUKU-CHAN!
HOW FAR ARE YOU TAKING THAT BIKE?!
AUGH!
OH, NO!
TEE-HEE
クスクス
WHAT THE HECK?
PEOPLE CAN DO ANYTHING THEY SET THEIR MIND TO, IF ONLY THEY TRY.
COMING BACK TO THIS CLASSROOM, AFTER ALL THOSE DAYS OFF...
...TODAY, I FEEL...
RATTLE
...AS IF I'VE BEEN REBORN!

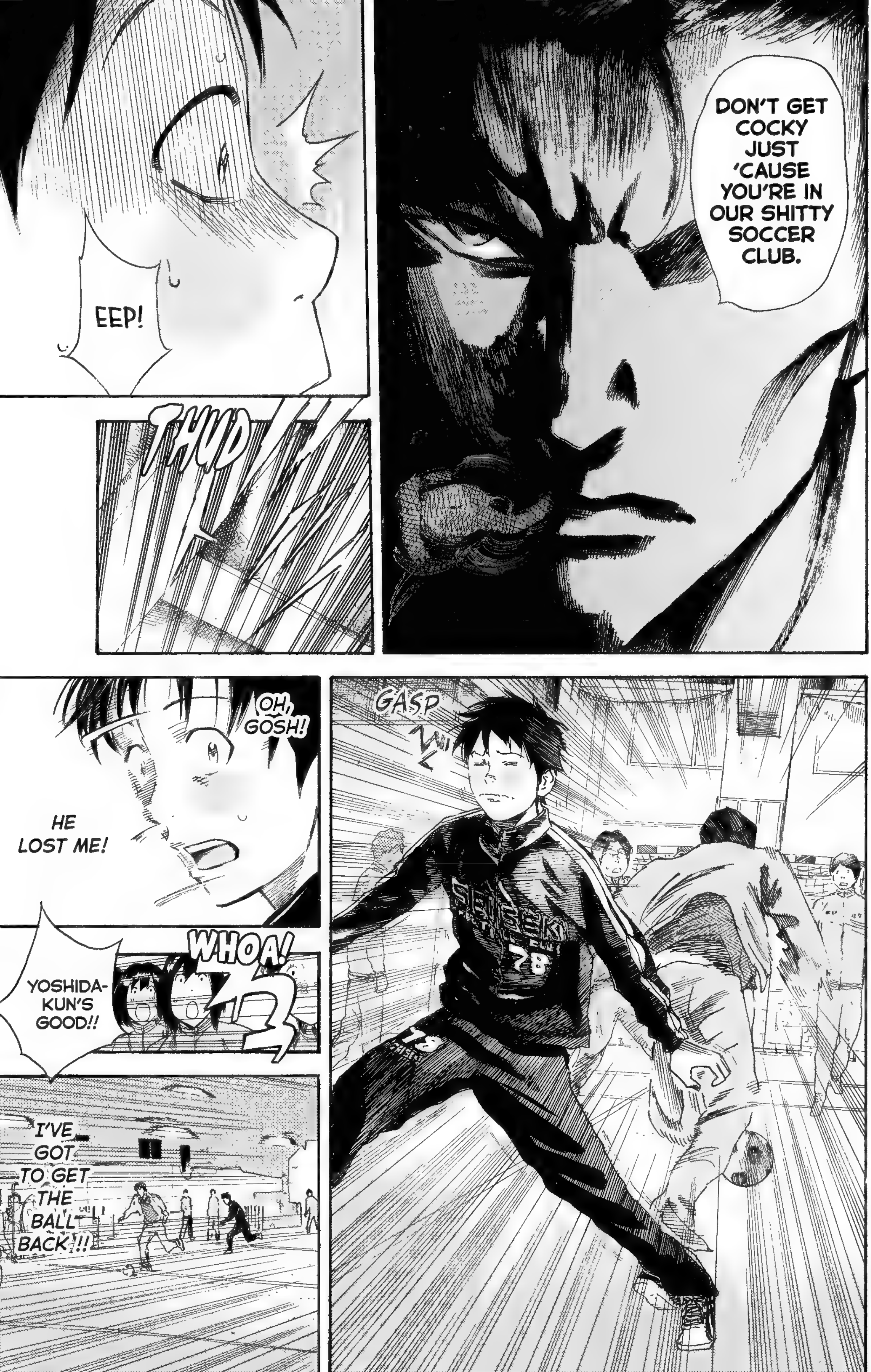

AH!
GOOD TIMING!
GO BUY ME A MELON BUN, TSUKAMOTO.
AND SOME CREAM BUNS AND CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, TOO! THANKS!!
...
I'M GONNA FACE THE NEW DAY AND GIVE IT MY ALL! MY CLASSES, THE CLUB... AND ERRANDS, TOO!
BE RIGHT BACK!!
I'D BETTER HURRY! THAT STUFF'S POPULAR... IT RUNS OUT FAST!
ZIP
THANKS A BUNCH!
BONK
OWW!
HE SURE IS MEEK...
TMP TMP
AND USEFUL, TOO!
ROLL ROLL
HE'S HONEST...

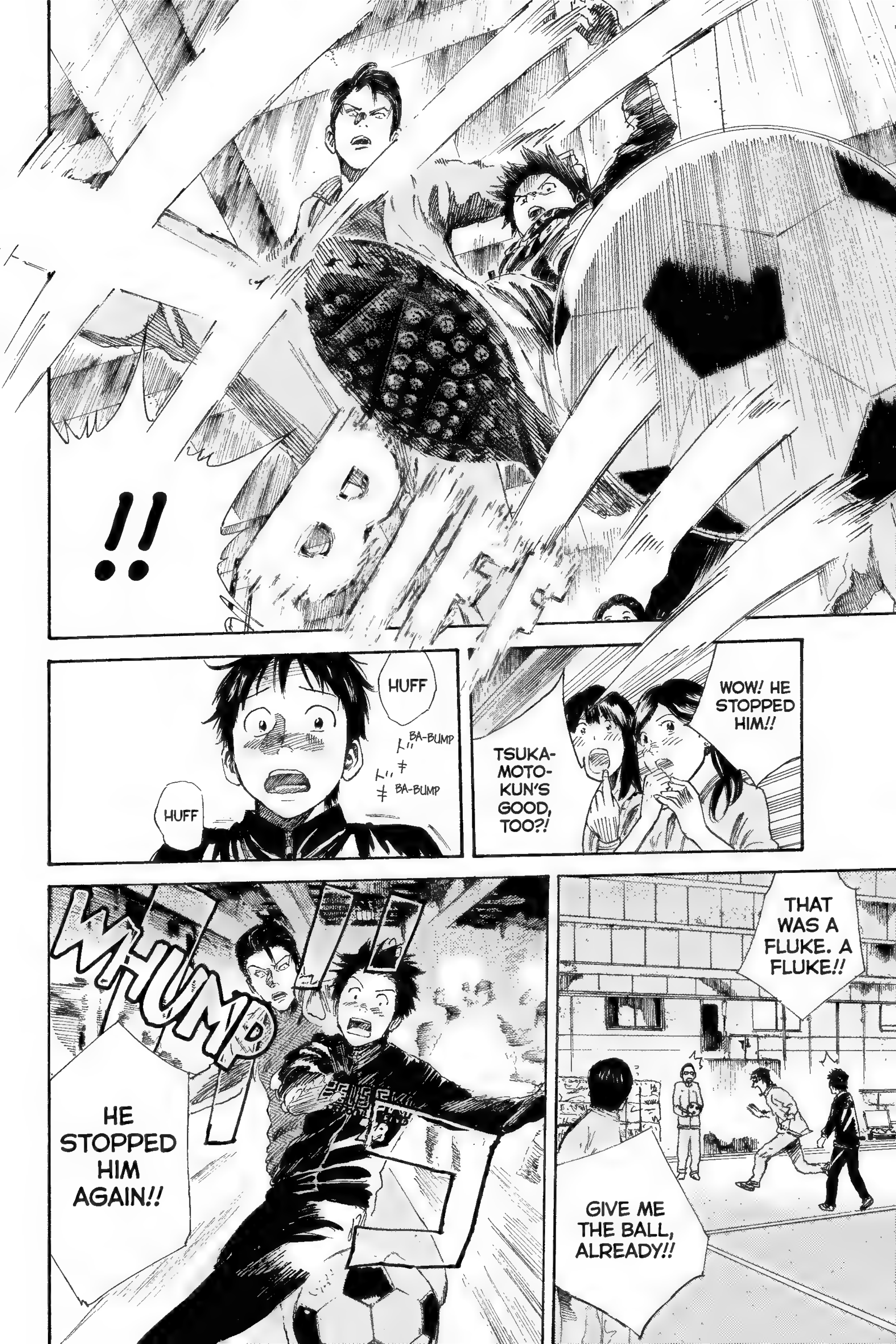

CLATTER
...
HONEST? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN HE'S AN IDIOT.
?
GOD!
DAMN YOU, TSUKAMOTO... YOU'RE A TOTAL LOSER, BUT UBUKATA TALKS TO YOU!
Lucky little jerk...
SECOND PERIOD: P.E.
BOYS' ACTIVITY: SOCCER
AHH!
WAH
HA
HA
OH...
OH, NO...
I FORGOT MY SCHOOL JERSEY!!

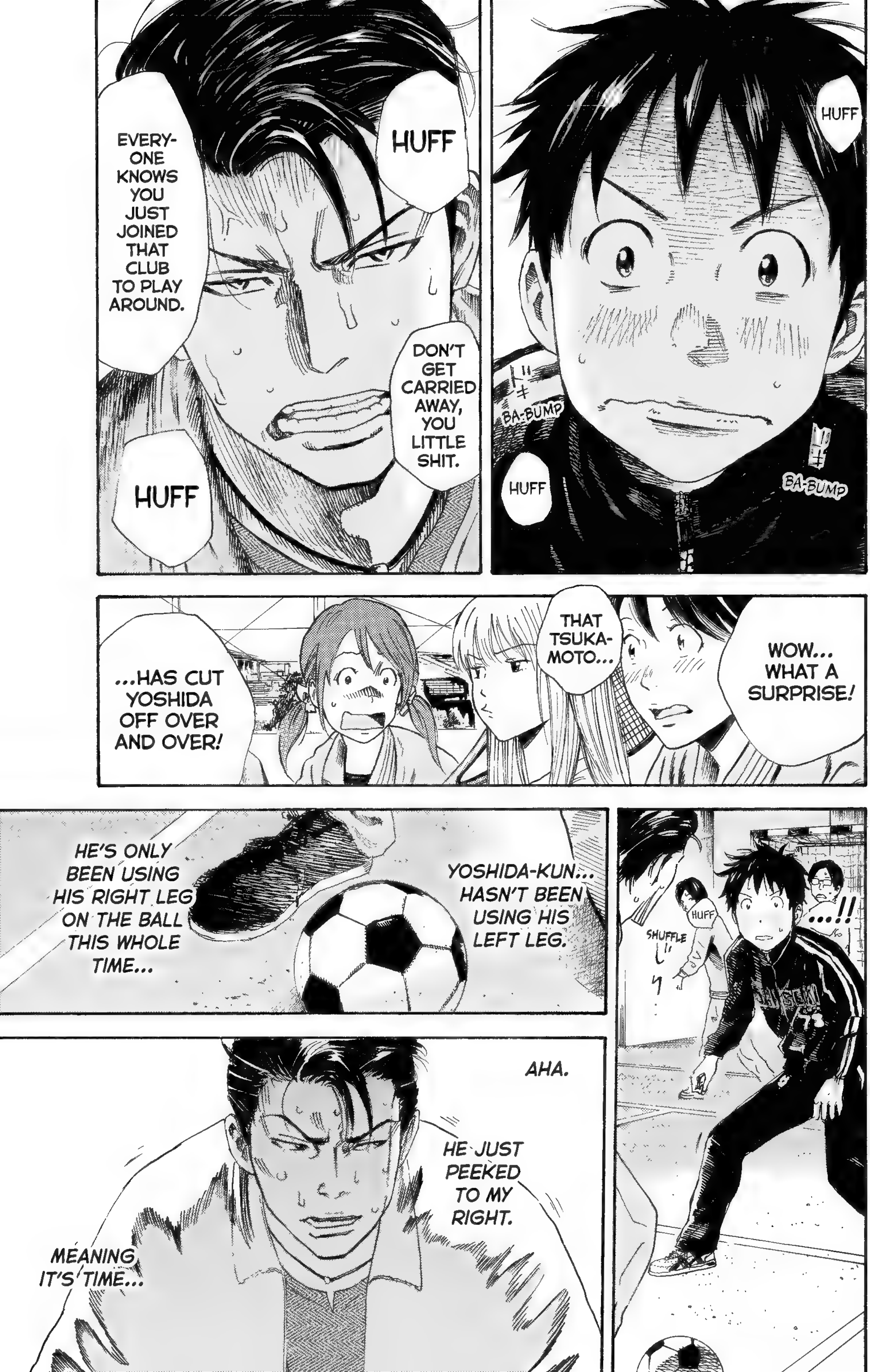

THE TEACHER SAID I COULD JUST WEAR MY SOCCER CLUB JERSEY, BUT...
SEISEKI FOOTBALL CLUB 78
78 SEISEKI
I REALLY STAND OUT! I'M THE ONLY ONE IN BLACK...
ピク SNAP
WHAT'S THE DEAL?
GOTTA SHOW OFF TO EVERYONE THAT YOU'RE IN OUR BIG-SHOT SOCCER CLUB, HUH?!
OH!
YOSHIDA-KUN!
NO...
ドキドキ BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
MUMBLE
IT'S NOT THAT, I JUST...

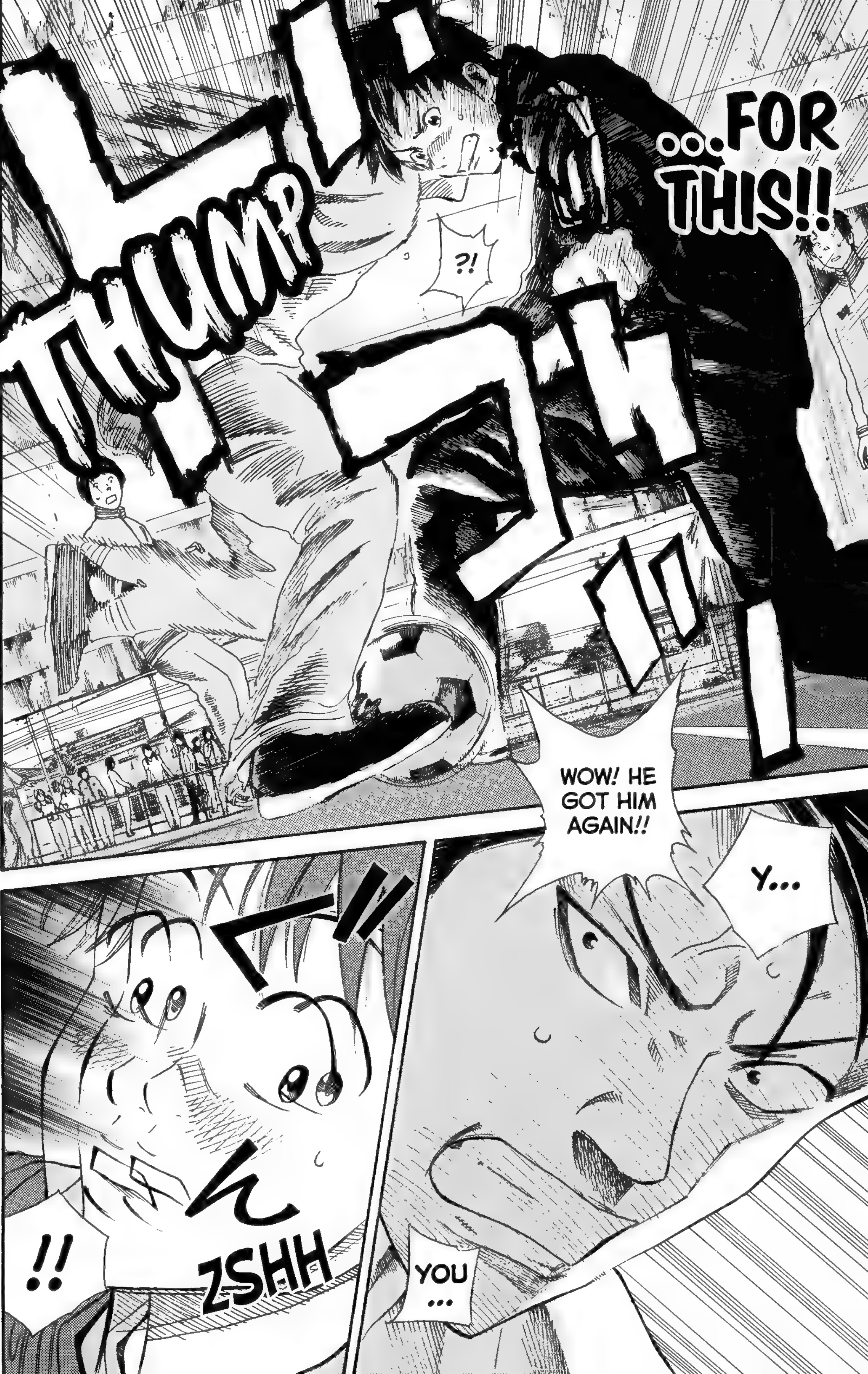

WHAT? TSUKAMOTO'S IN THE SOCCER CLUB?
WITH ALL THAT RUNNING HE DID, I THOUGHT HE WAS IN TRACK!
...
HUH? THE SOCCER CLUB? WHO?
IT'S NOT JUST KAZAMA-KUN?
IS IT THAT KID IN THE BLACK JERSEY?
SPEAKING OF, HE'S LATE AGAIN...
HUH! OUR CLUB'S PRETTY STRONG, RIGHT?
BUT HE'S SO SCRAWNY!
YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER, I GUESS.
YOU THINK HE'S PRETTY GOOD?
PSST
HE'S GOTTA BE!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE!
PSST
...HUH? WHY DO I GET THE FEELING...
ドキドキ
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
...PEOPLE ARE GETTING THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT HOW GOOD I AM?

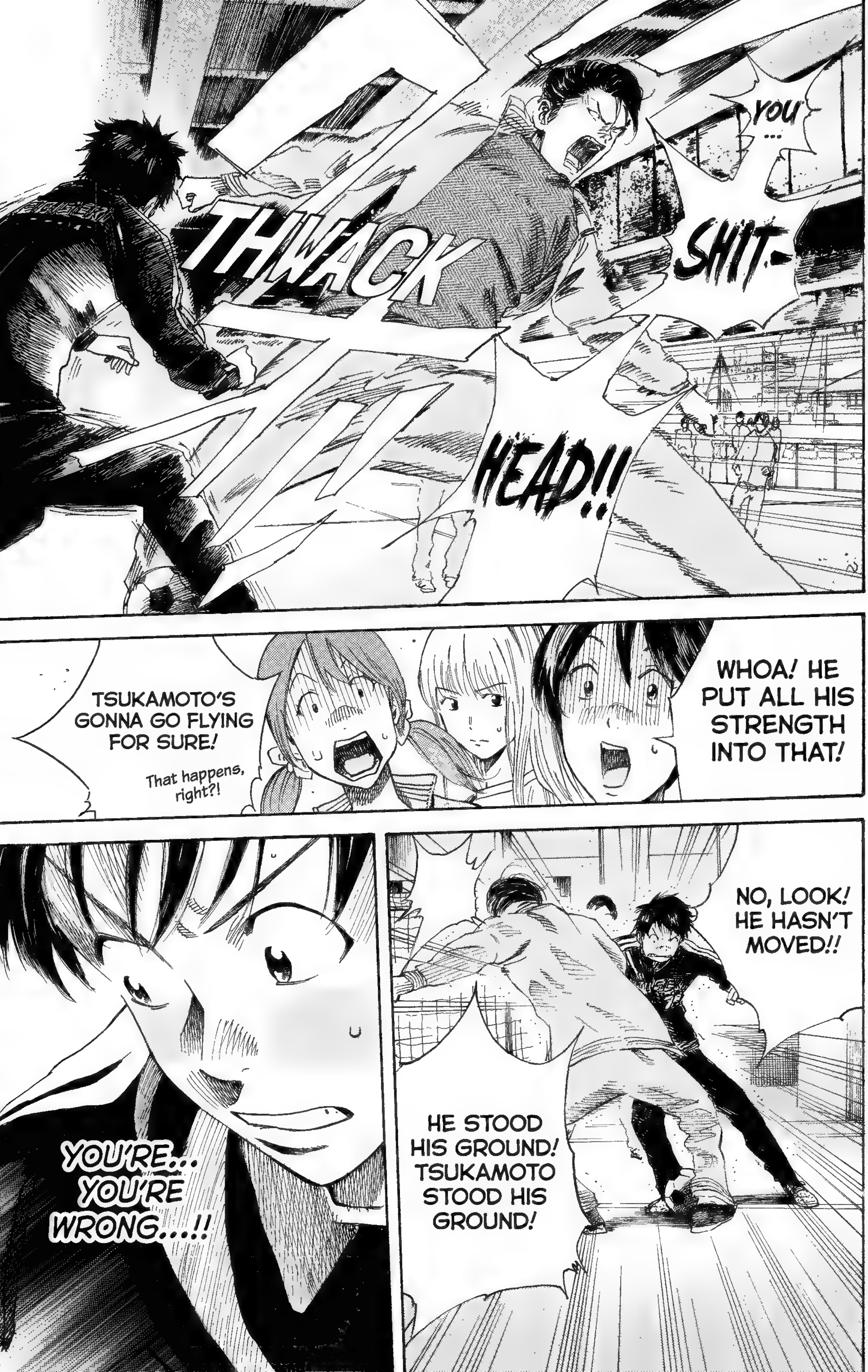

THE FIRST TIME WE DID SOCCER IN P.E., ALL I DID WAS MESS UP, TOO...
YAHH!
AUKH!!
IF I SCREW UP AGAIN, WITH ALL EYES ON ME...
...THEY'RE GONNA MAKE FUN OF ALL THE GUYS AT THE SOCCER CLUB...
DON'T LET 'EM DO IT!
FEEL IT.
...
HEY! THE GIRLS ARE PLAYING TENNIS TODAY!
WH...
WHAT DO I DO?
ドコ
THUMP
YOSHIDA-KUN'S IN THE JUDO CLUB... HE'S A REALLY GOOD ATHLETE!!
AND WAY STRONGER THAN ME...

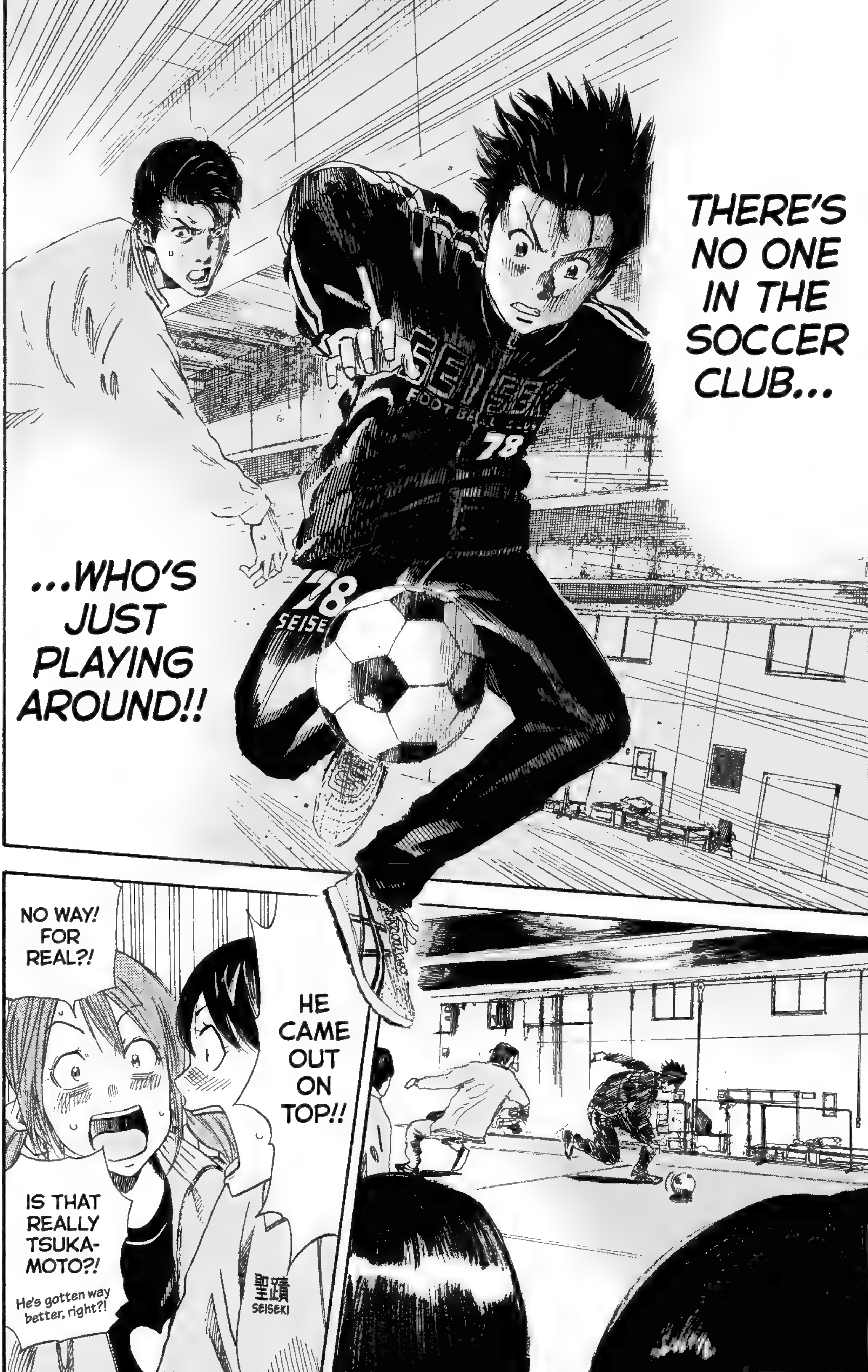

DON'T GET COCKY JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE IN OUR SHITTY SOCCER CLUB.
EEP!
THUD
GASP
SEISEKI
78
OH, GOSH!
HE LOST ME!
WHOA!
YOSHIDA-KUN'S GOOD!!
I'VE GOT TO GET THE BALL BACK!!!

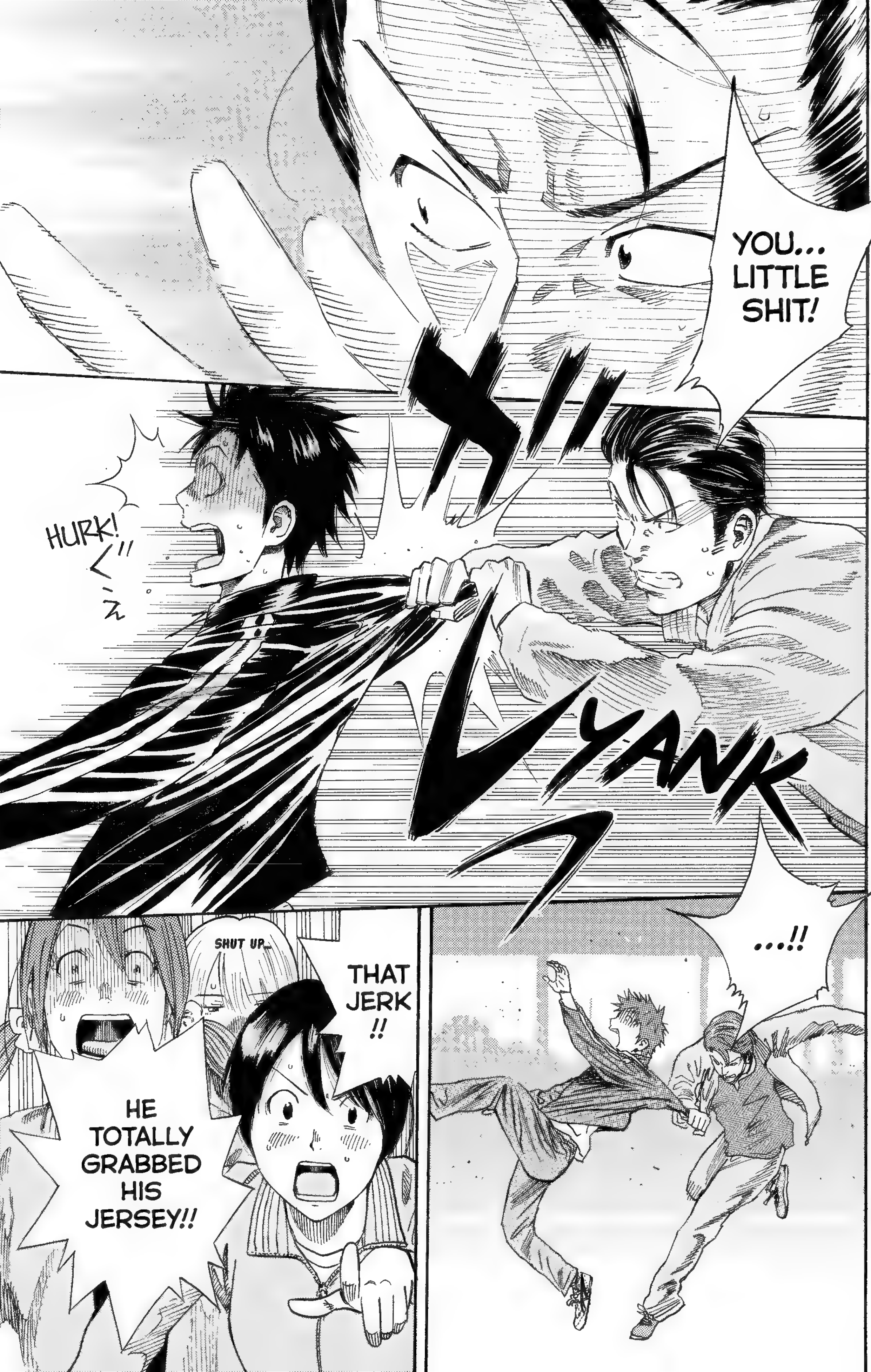

BIFF
!!
WOW! HE STOPPED HIM!!
TSUKAMOTO-KUN'S GOOD, TOO?!
HUFF
ドッ BA-BUMP
キ
ドッ
キ BA-BUMP
HUFF
THAT WAS A FLUKE. A FLUKE!!
GIVE ME THE BALL, ALREADY!!
WHUMP
HE STOPPED HIM AGAIN!!

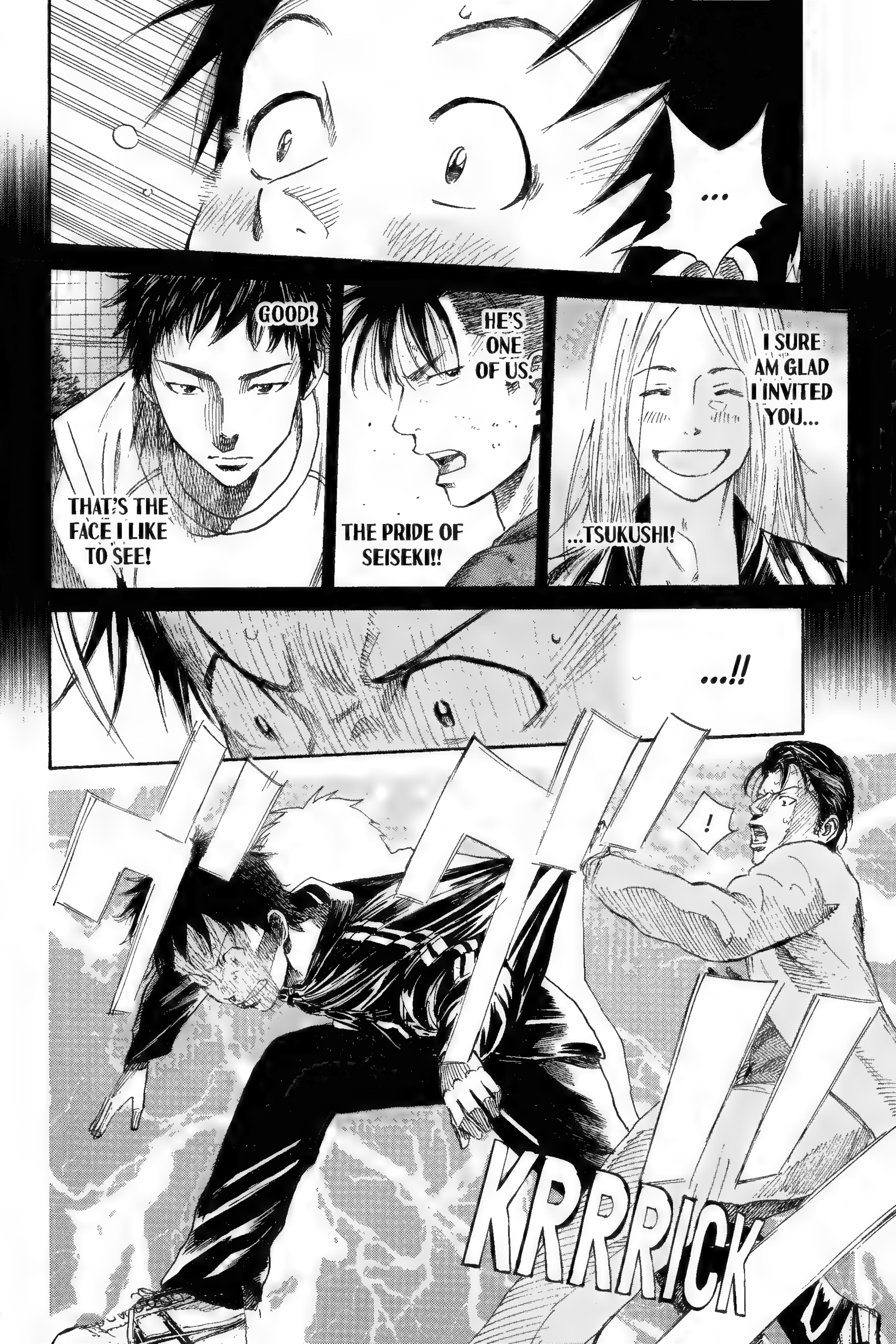

HUFF
ドキ
BA-BUMP
HUFF
ドキ
BA-BUMP
HUFF
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU JUST JOINED THAT CLUB TO PLAY AROUND.
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, YOU LITTLE SHIT.
HUFF
WOW... WHAT A SURPRISE!
THAT TSUKAMOTO...
...HAS CUT YOSHIDA OFF OVER AND OVER!
...!!
HUFF
SHUFFLE
YOSHIDA-KUN... HASN'T BEEN USING HIS LEFT LEG.
HE'S ONLY BEEN USING HIS RIGHT LEG ON THE BALL THIS WHOLE TIME...
AHA.
HE JUST PEEKED TO MY RIGHT.
MEANING IT'S TIME...

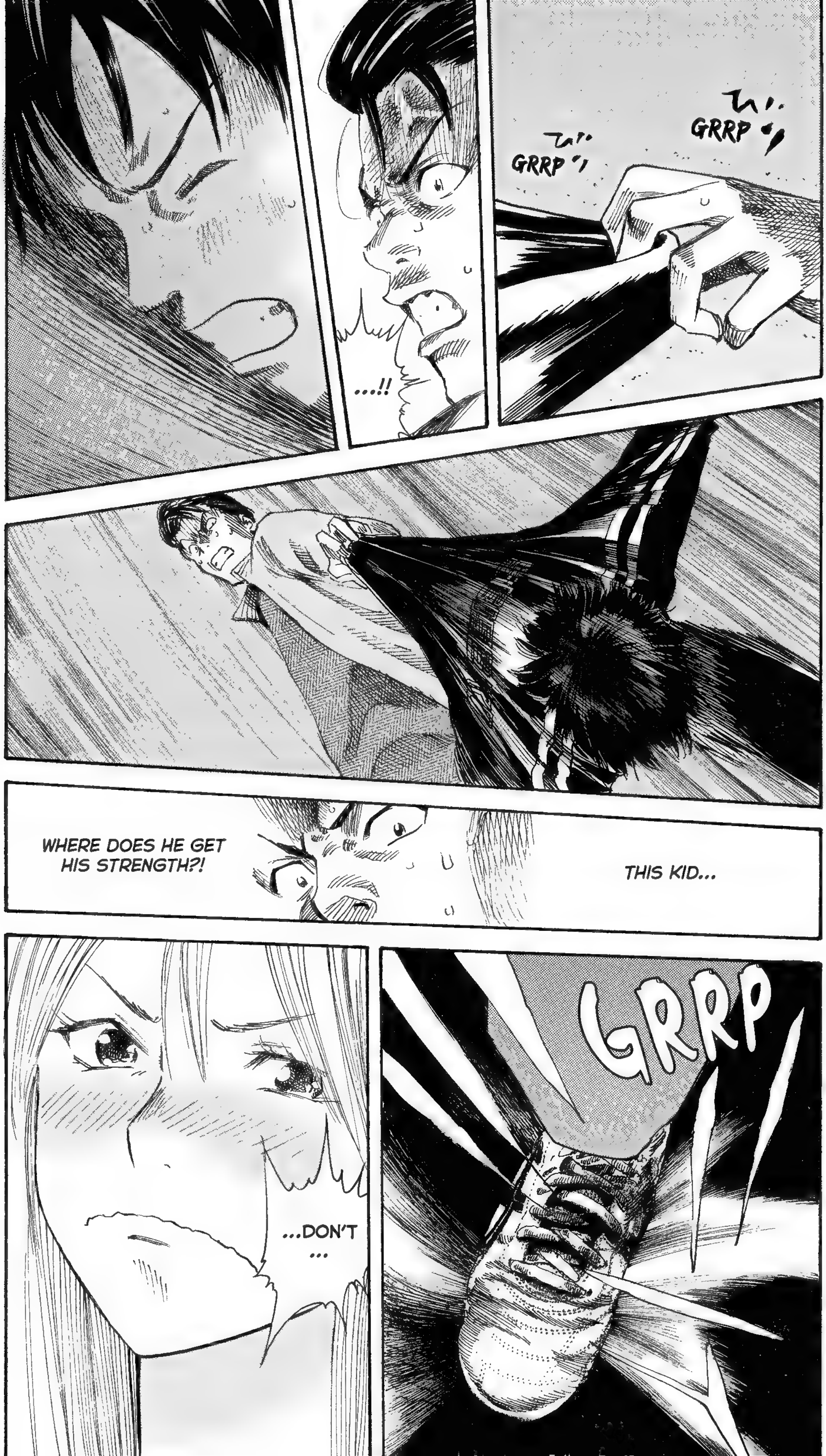

...FOR THIS!!
THUMP
?!
WOW! HE GOT HIM AGAIN!!
Y...
YOU ...
!!
ZSHH

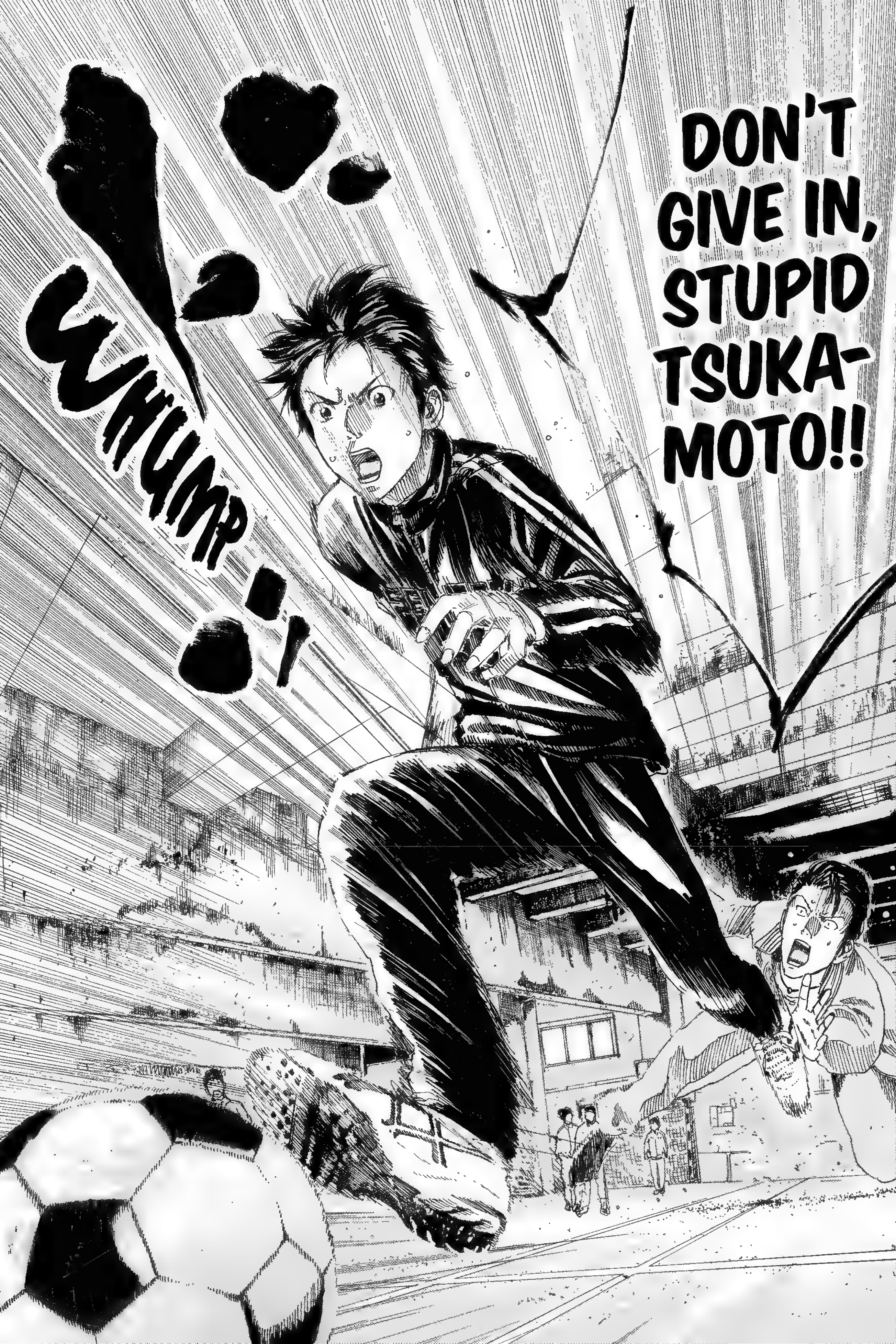

YOU...
SHIT-
HEAD!!
THWACK
WHOA! HE PUT ALL HIS STRENGTH INTO THAT!
TSUKAMOTO'S GONNA GO FLYING FOR SURE!
That happens, right?!
NO, LOOK! HE HASN'T MOVED!!
HE STOOD HIS GROUND! TSUKAMOTO STOOD HIS GROUND!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE WRONG...!!

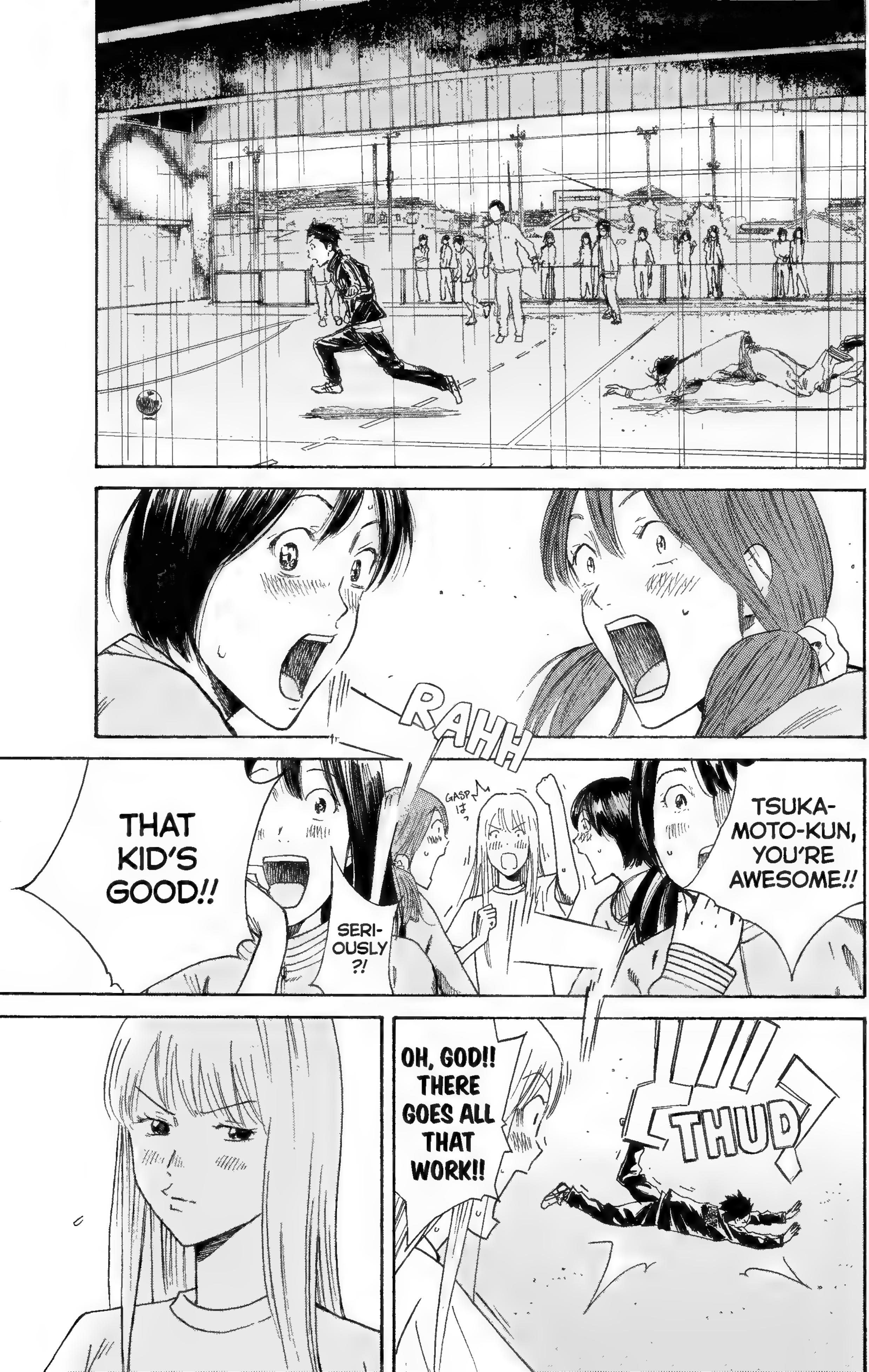

THERE'S NO ONE IN THE SOCCER CLUB...
...WHO'S JUST PLAYING AROUND!!
SEISEKI FOOTBALL CLUB 78
78 SEISEKI
HE CAME OUT ON TOP!!
NO WAY! FOR REAL?!
IS THAT REALLY TSUKAMOTO?!
He's gotten way better, right?!
聖蹟 SEISEKI

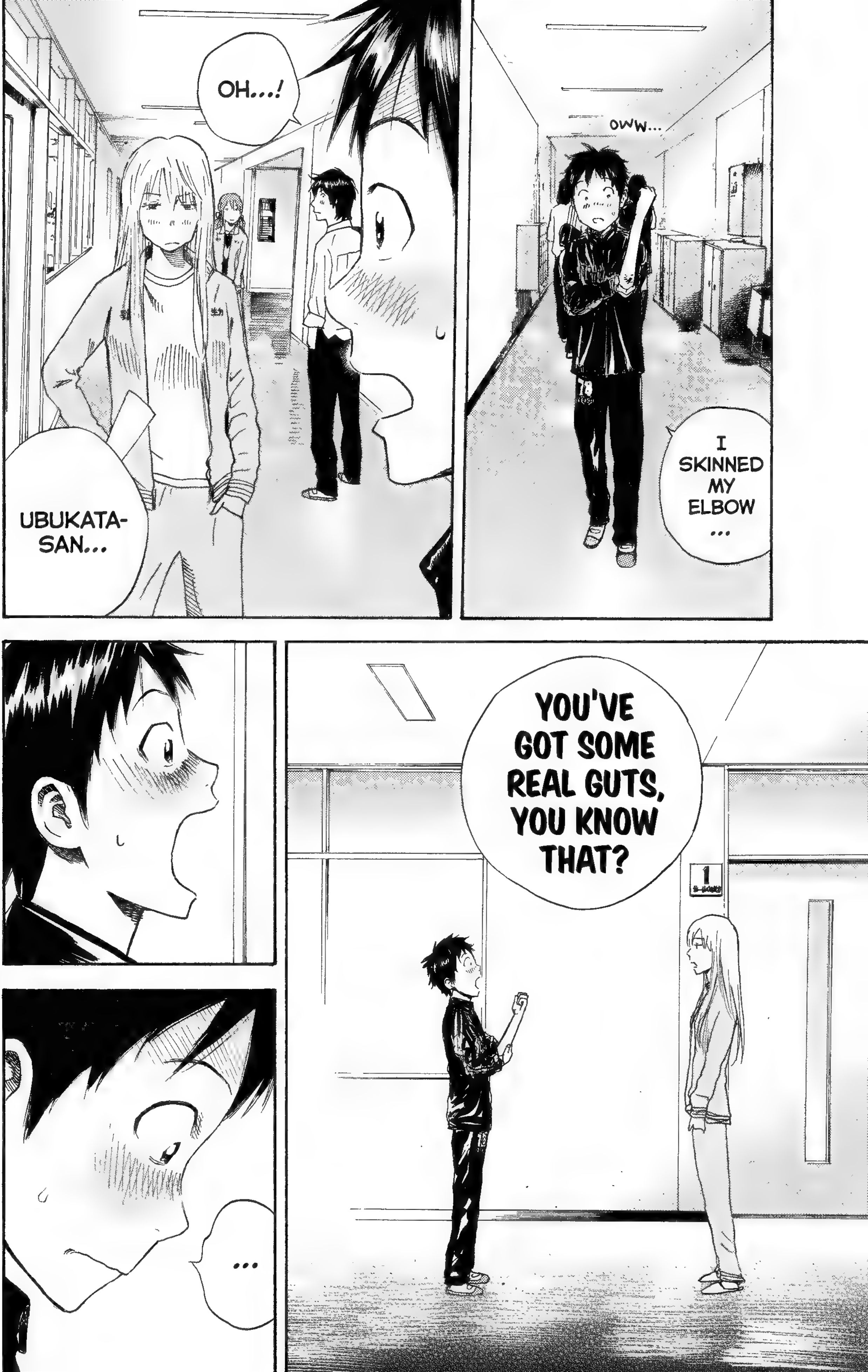

YOU... LITTLE SHIT!
HURK!
ぐえ
YANK
...!!
THAT JERK !!
SHUT UP...
HE TOTALLY GRABBED HIS JERSEY!!

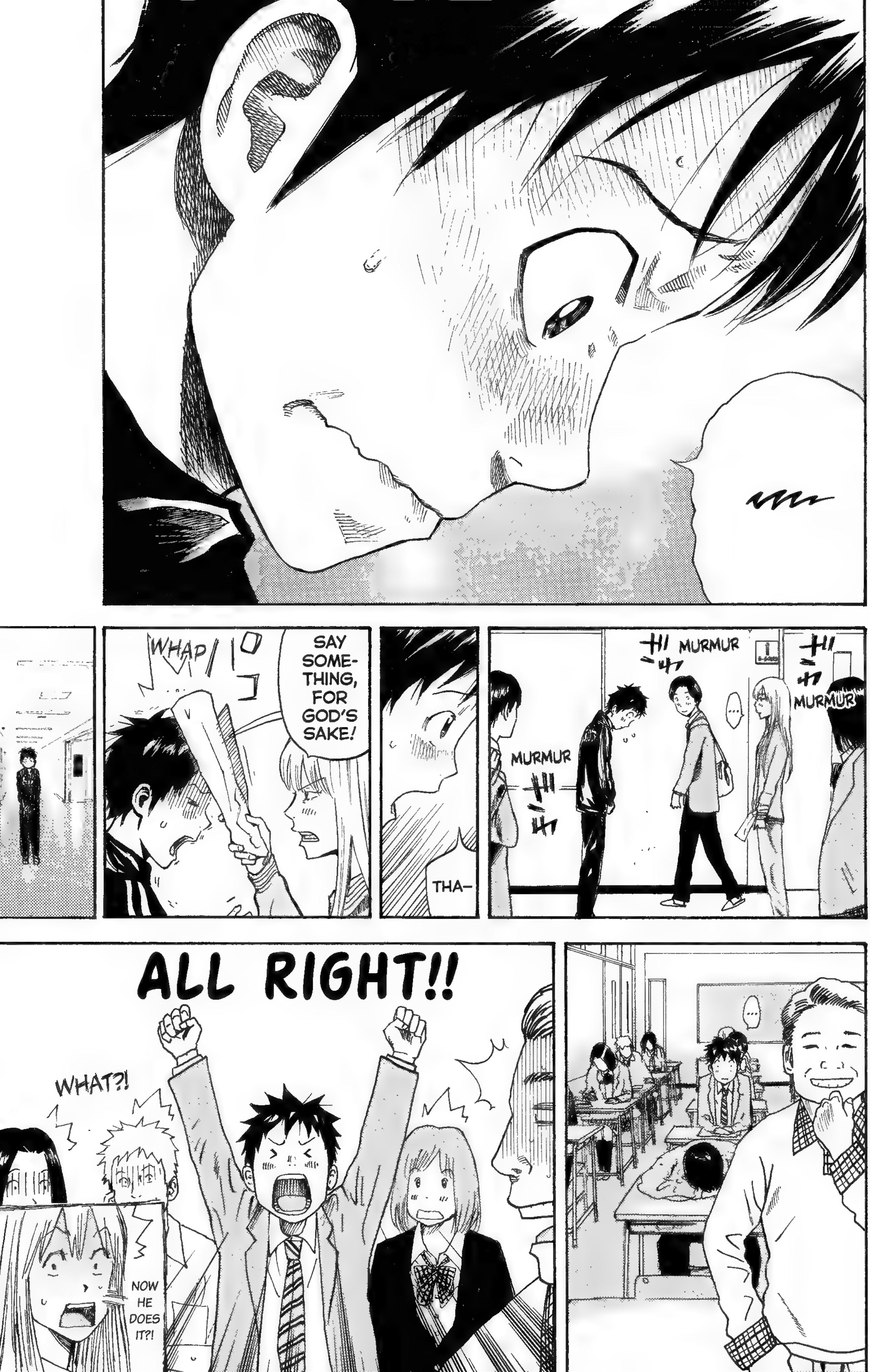

...
I SURE AM GLAD I INVITED YOU...
...TSUKUSHI!
HE'S ONE OF US.
THE PRIDE OF SEISEKI!!
GOOD!
THAT'S THE FACE I LIKE TO SEE!
...!!
!
KRRRICK

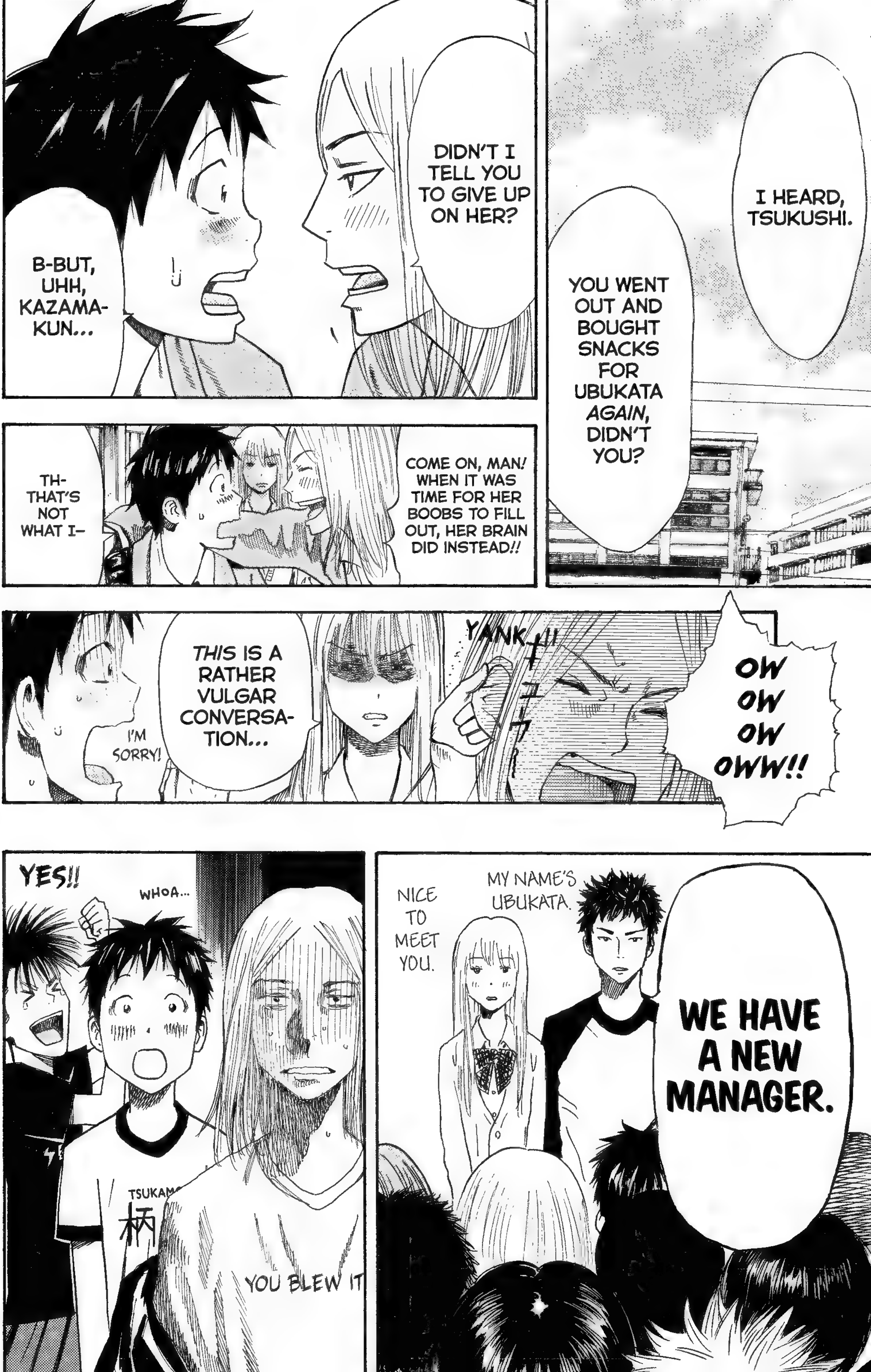

GRRP
GRRP
...!!
THIS KID...
WHERE DOES HE GET HIS STRENGTH?!
GRRP
...DON'T
...


DON'T GIVE IN, STUPID TSUKAMOTO!!
WHUMP!

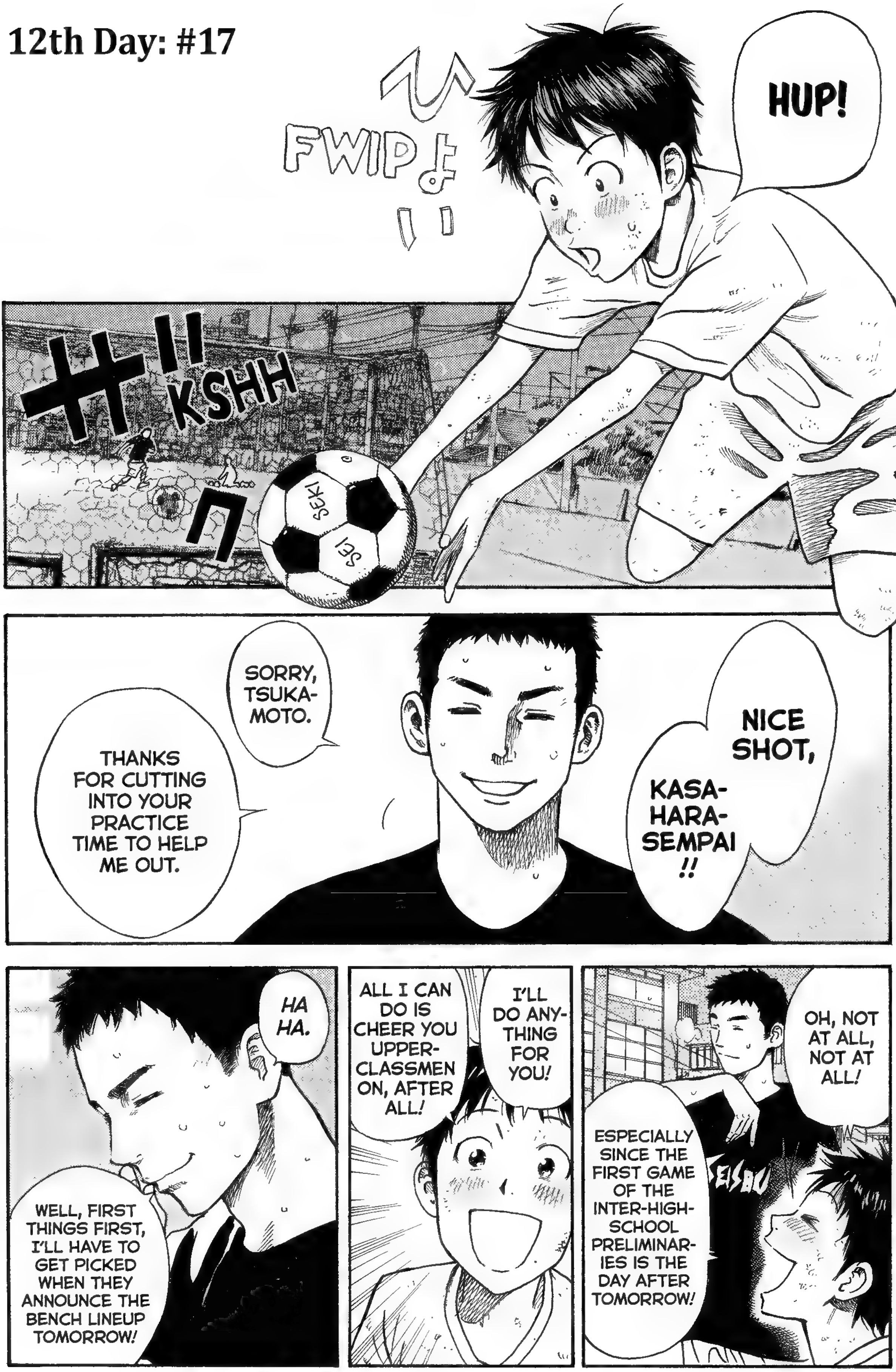

RAHH
TSUKA-MOTO-KUN, YOU'RE AWESOME!!
GASP はっ
SERIOUSLY?!
THAT KID'S GOOD!!
THUD
OH, GOD!! THERE GOES ALL THAT WORK!!

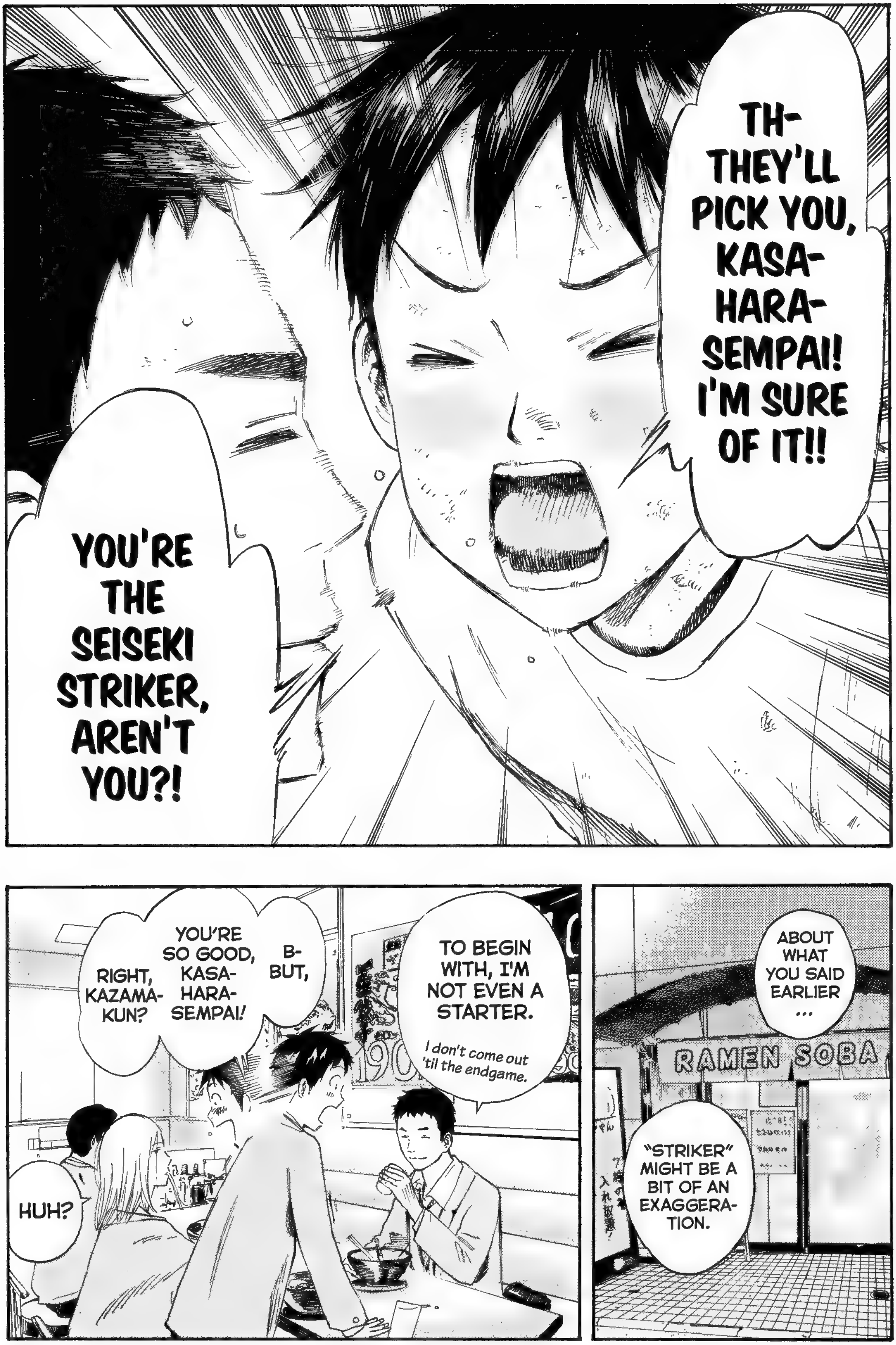

OWW...
I SKINNED MY ELBOW...
OH...!
UBUKATA-SAN...
YOU'VE GOT SOME REAL GUTS, YOU KNOW THAT?
...

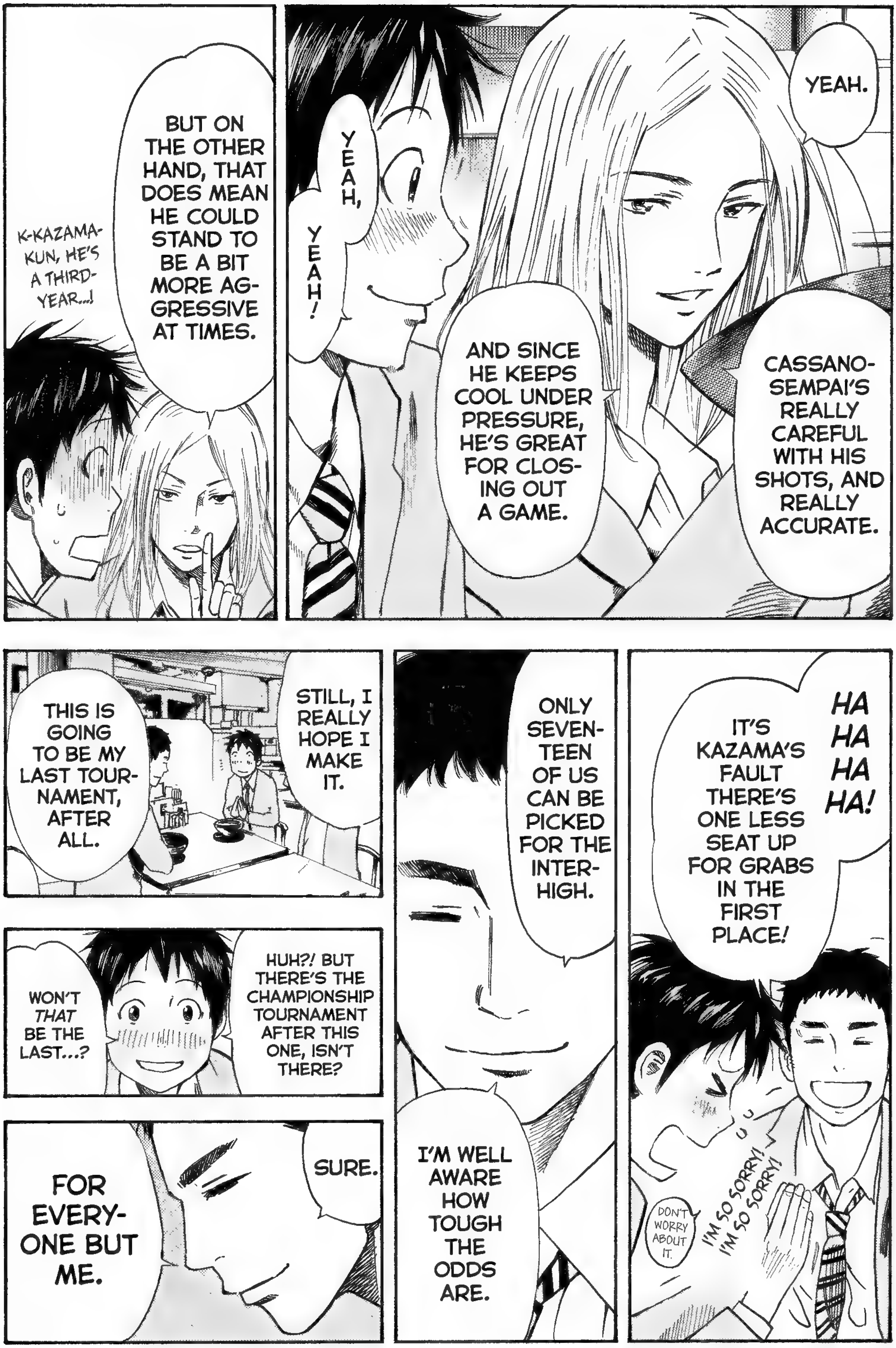

MURMUR
...
MURMUR
MURMUR
THA-
SAY SOMETHING, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WHAP
...
ALL RIGHT!!
WHAT?!
NOW HE DOES IT?!

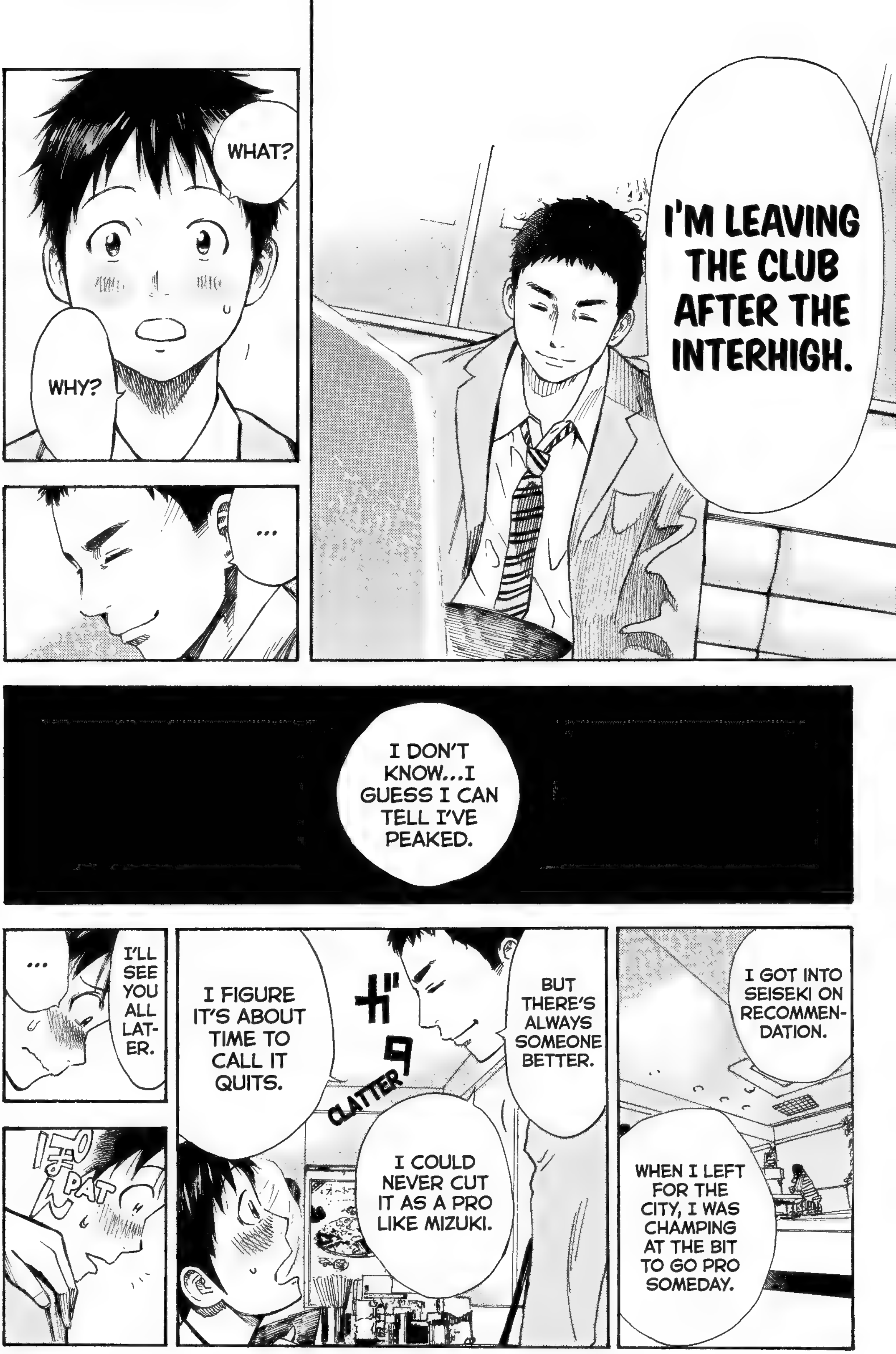

I HEARD, TSUKUSHI.
YOU WENT OUT AND BOUGHT SNACKS FOR UBUKATA *AGAIN*, DIDN'T YOU?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GIVE UP ON HER?
B-BUT, UHH, KAZAMA-KUN...
COME ON, MAN! WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR HER BOOBS TO FILL OUT, HER BRAIN DID INSTEAD!!
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I—
OW OW OW OWW!!
YANK!!!
THIS IS A RATHER VULGAR CONVERSATION...
I'M SORRY!
WE HAVE A NEW MANAGER.
MY NAME'S UBUKATA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
YES!!
WHOA...
TSUKAMO
柄
YOU BLEW IT

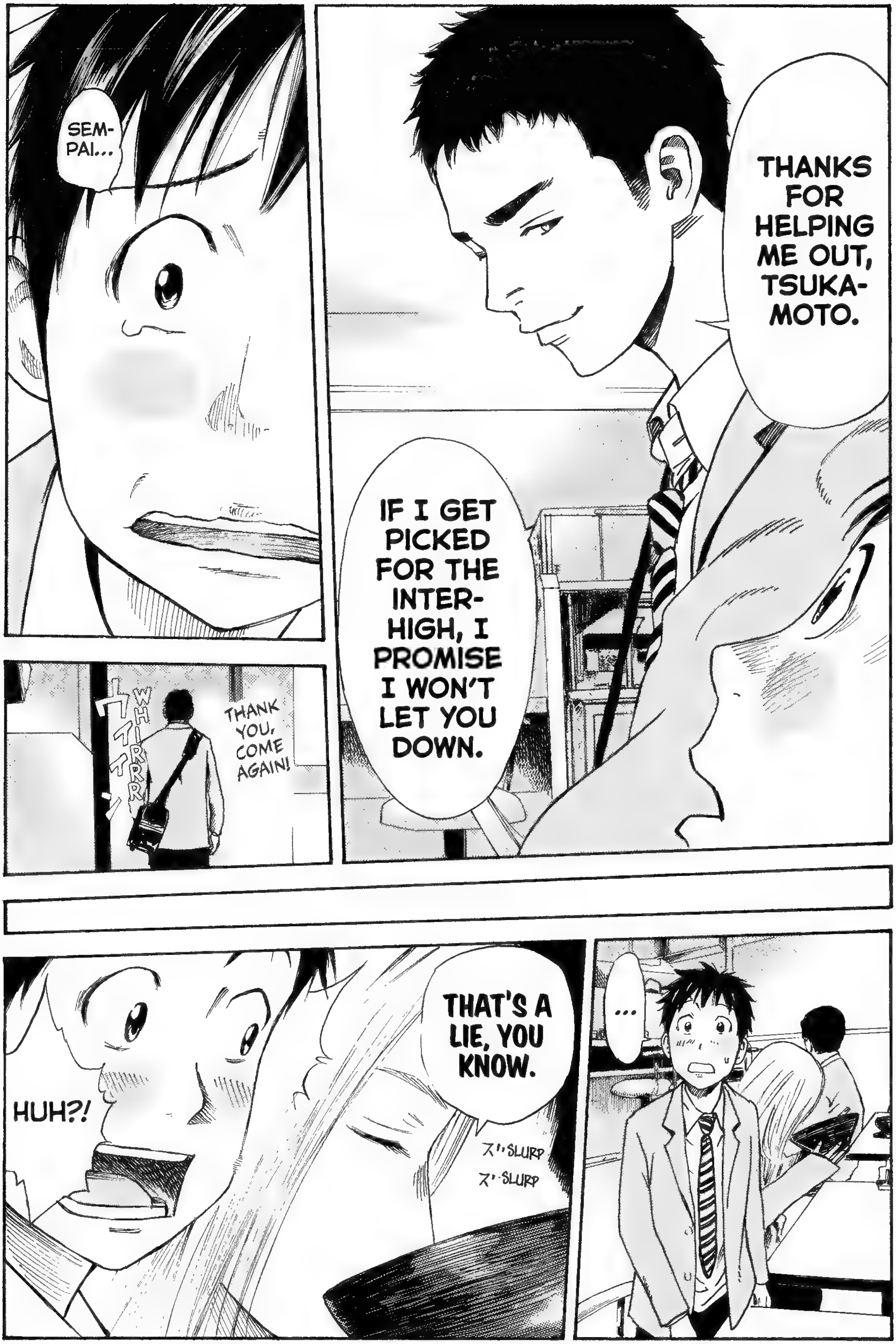
12th Day: #17

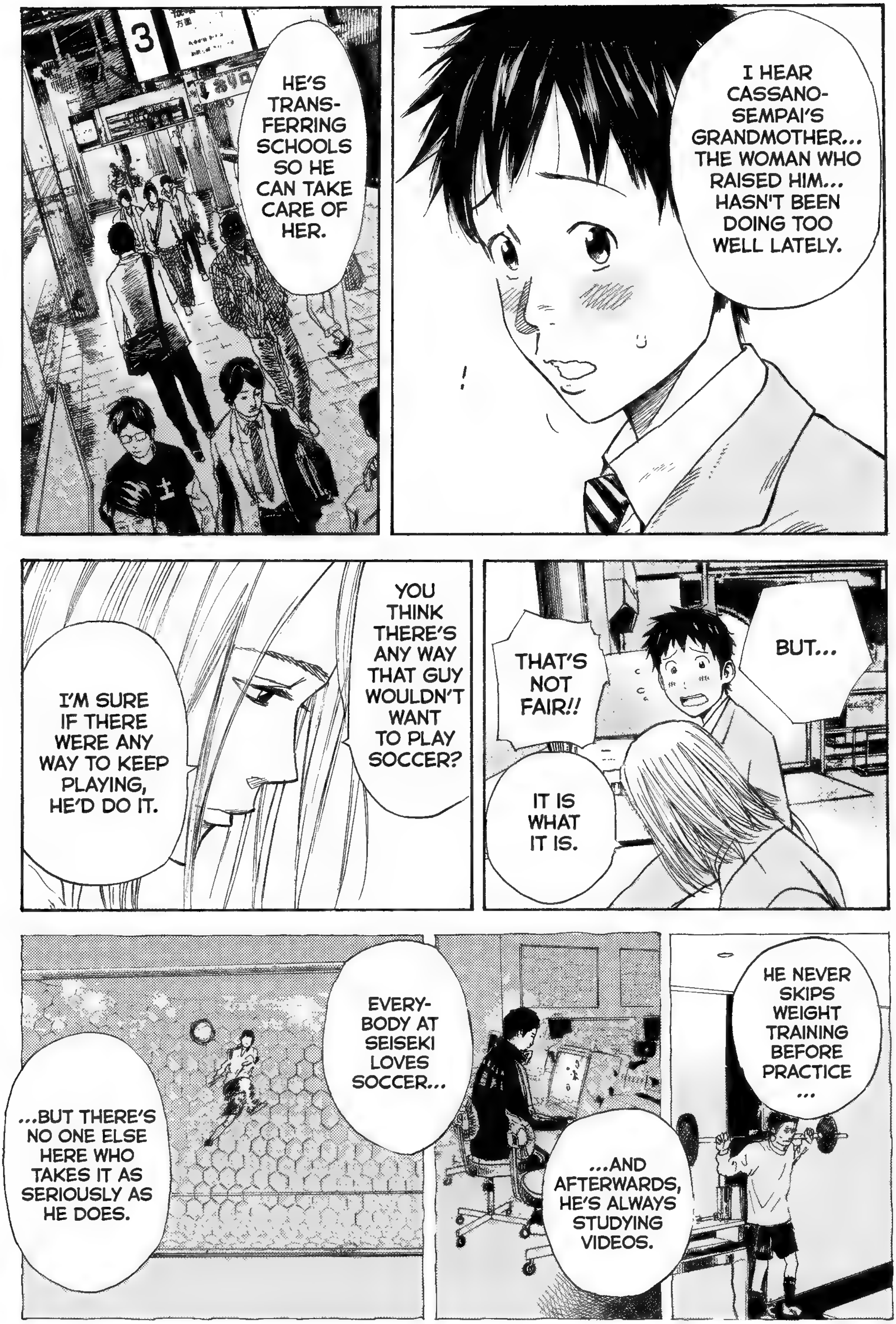

HUP!
FWIP
KSHH
NICE SHOT, KASAHARA-SEMPAI!!
SORRY, TSUKAMOTO.
THANKS FOR CUTTING INTO YOUR PRACTICE TIME TO HELP ME OUT.
OH, NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL!
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE FIRST GAME OF THE INTER-HIGH-SCHOOL PRELIMINARIES IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!
I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!
ALL I CAN DO IS CHEER YOU UPPERCLASSMEN ON, AFTER ALL!
HA HA.
WELL, FIRST THINGS FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO GET PICKED WHEN THEY ANNOUNCE THE BENCH LINEUP TOMORROW!

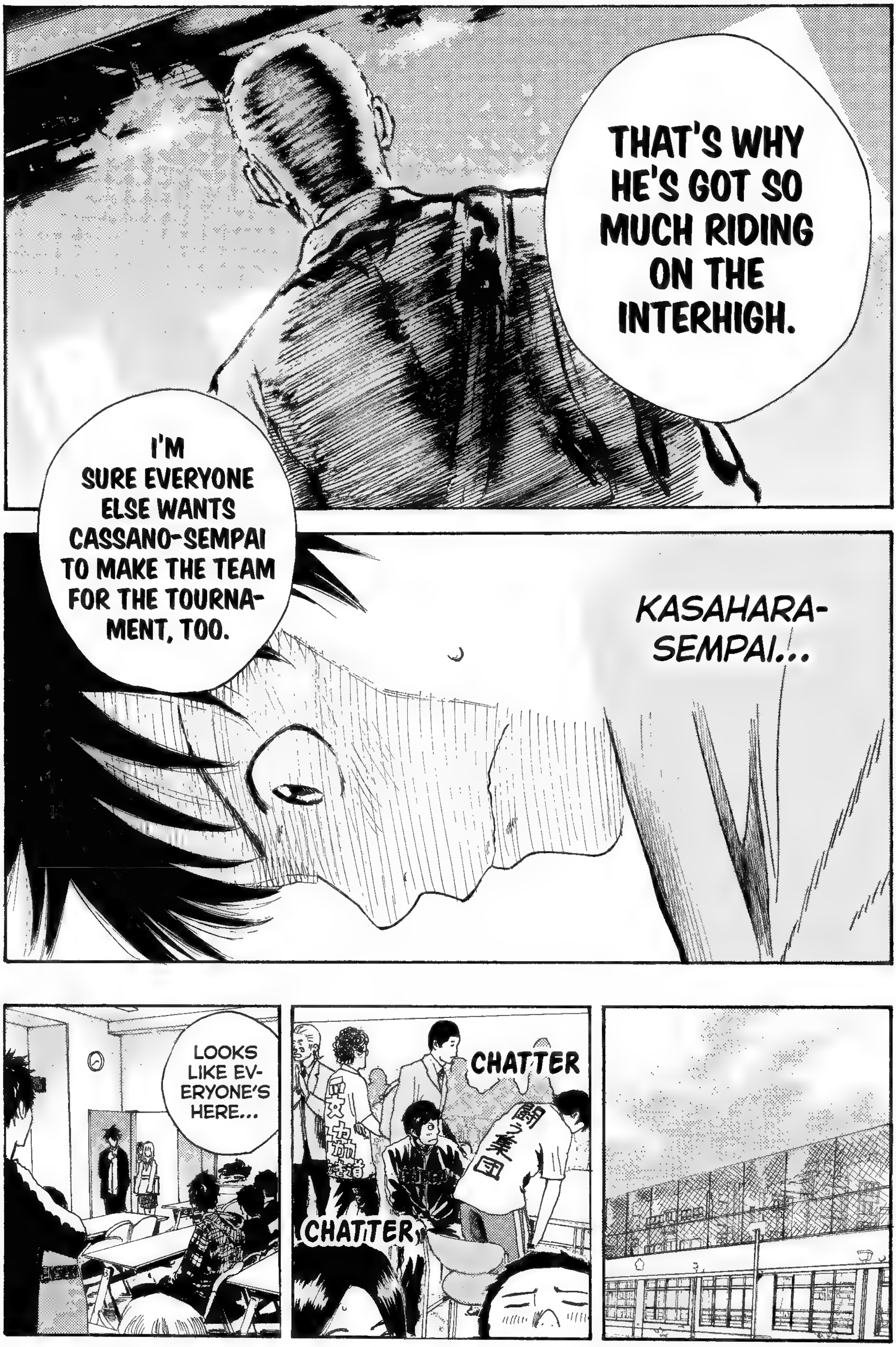

TH-THEY'LL PICK YOU, KASAHARA-SEMPAI! I'M SURE OF IT!!
YOU'RE THE SEISEKI STRIKER, AREN'T YOU?!
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER ...
"STRIKER" MIGHT BE A BIT OF AN EXAGGERATION.
RAMEN SOBA
TO BEGIN WITH, I'M NOT EVEN A STARTER.
I don't come out 'til the endgame.
B-BUT,
YOU'RE SO GOOD, KASAHARA-SEMPAI!
RIGHT, KAZAMA-KUN?
HUH?

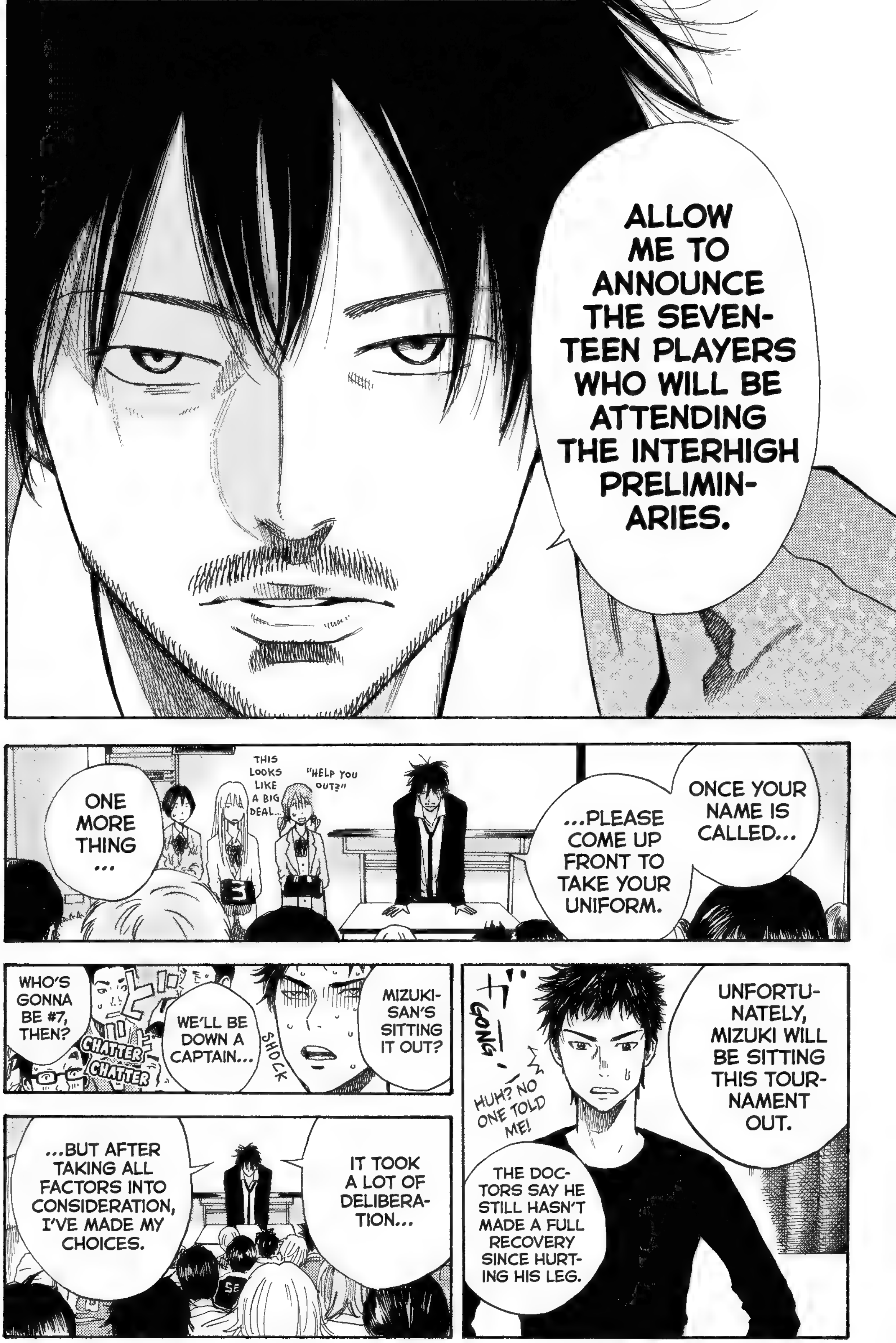

YEAH.
CASSANO-SEMPAI'S REALLY CAREFUL WITH HIS SHOTS, AND REALLY ACCURATE.
AND SINCE HE KEEPS COOL UNDER PRESSURE, HE'S GREAT FOR CLOSING OUT A GAME.
YEAH, YEAH!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT DOES MEAN HE COULD STAND TO BE A BIT MORE AGGRESSIVE AT TIMES.
K-KAZAMA-KUN, HE'S A THIRD-YEAR...!
HA HA HA HA!
IT'S KAZAMA'S FAULT THERE'S ONE LESS SEAT UP FOR GRABS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I'M SO SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
ONLY SEVENTEEN OF US CAN BE PICKED FOR THE INTER-HIGH.
I'M WELL AWARE HOW TOUGH THE ODDS ARE.
STILL, I REALLY HOPE I MAKE IT.
THIS IS GOING TO BE MY LAST TOURNAMENT, AFTER ALL.
HUH?! BUT THERE'S THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT AFTER THIS ONE, ISN'T THERE?
WON'T *THAT* BE THE LAST...?
SURE.
FOR EVERYONE BUT ME.

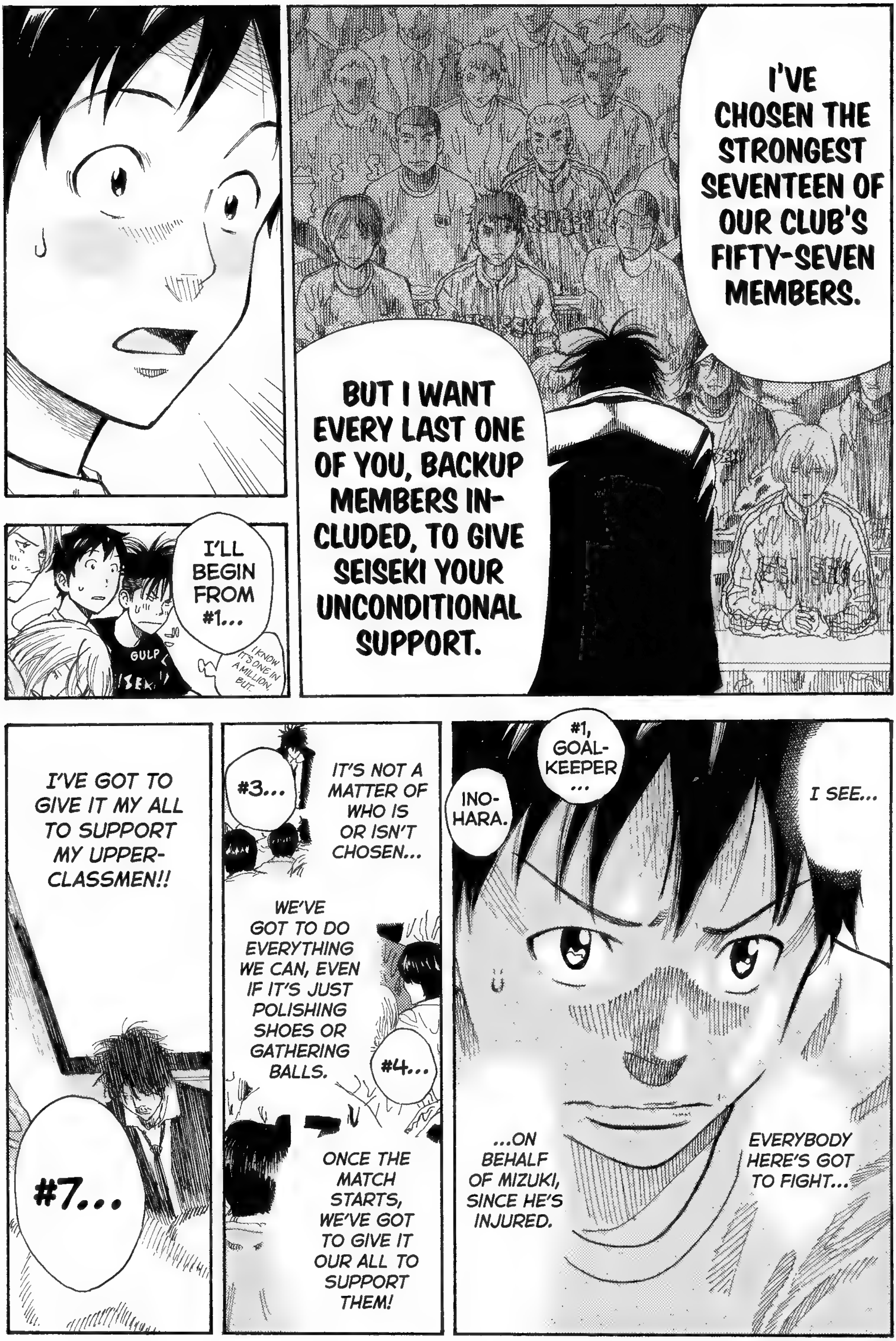

I'M LEAVING THE CLUB AFTER THE INTERHIGH.
WHAT?
WHY?
...
I DON'T KNOW...I GUESS I CAN TELL I'VE PEAKED.
I GOT INTO SEISEKI ON RECOMMENDATION.
WHEN I LEFT FOR THE CITY, I WAS CHAMPING AT THE BIT TO GO PRO SOMEDAY.
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE BETTER.
I COULD NEVER CUT IT AS A PRO LIKE MIZUKI.
ガタ
CLATTER
I FIGURE IT'S ABOUT TIME TO CALL IT QUITS.
I'LL SEE YOU ALL LATER.
...
ぽん
PAT

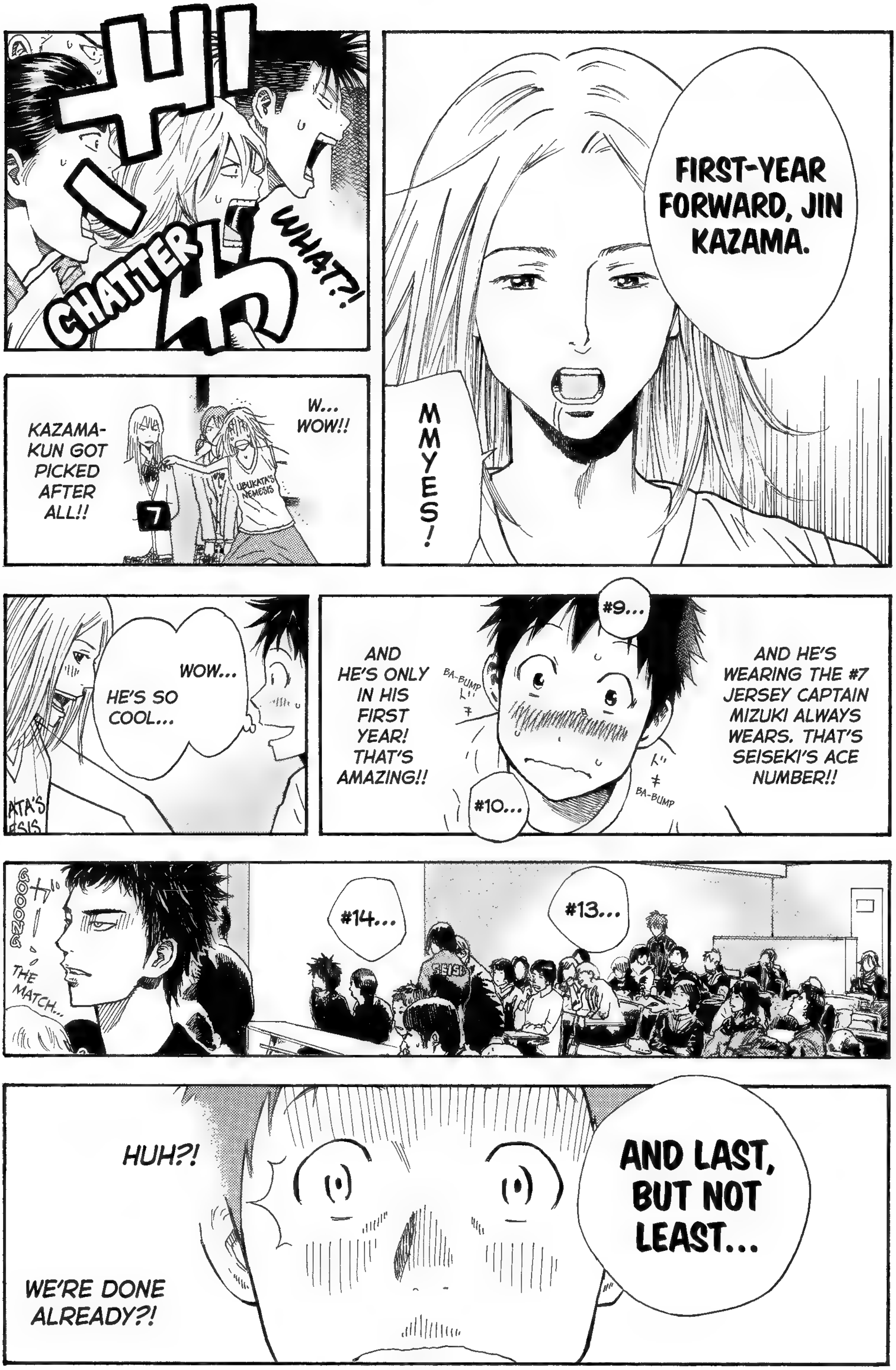

THANKS FOR HELPING ME OUT, TSUKAMOTO.
IF I GET PICKED FOR THE INTER-HIGH, I PROMISE I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.
SEMPAI...
ウイィィ WHIRRR
THANK YOU, COME AGAIN!
...
THAT'S A LIE, YOU KNOW.
ズ・SLURP
ズ・SLURP
HUH?!

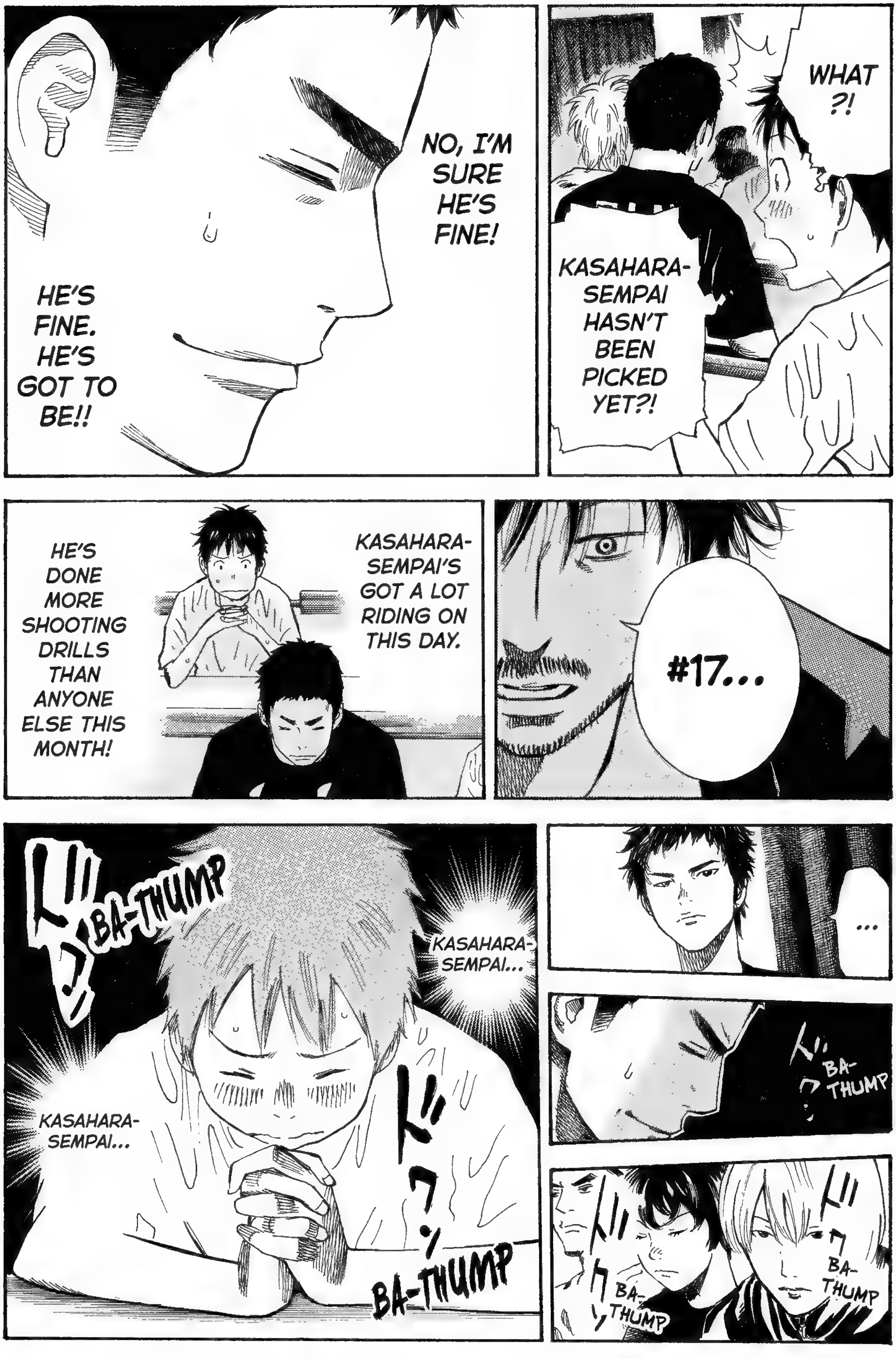

I HEAR CASSANO-SEMPAI'S GRANDMOTHER... THE WOMAN WHO RAISED HIM... HASN'T BEEN DOING TOO WELL LATELY.
!
3
HE'S TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS SO HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HER.
BUT...
THAT'S NOT FAIR!!
IT IS WHAT IT IS.
YOU THINK THERE'S ANY WAY THAT GUY WOULDN'T WANT TO PLAY SOCCER?
I'M SURE IF THERE WERE ANY WAY TO KEEP PLAYING, HE'D DO IT.
HE NEVER SKIPS WEIGHT TRAINING BEFORE PRACTICE...
...AND AFTERWARDS, HE'S ALWAYS STUDYING VIDEOS.
EVERYBODY AT SEISEKI LOVES SOCCER...
...BUT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE WHO TAKES IT AS SERIOUSLY AS HE DOES.

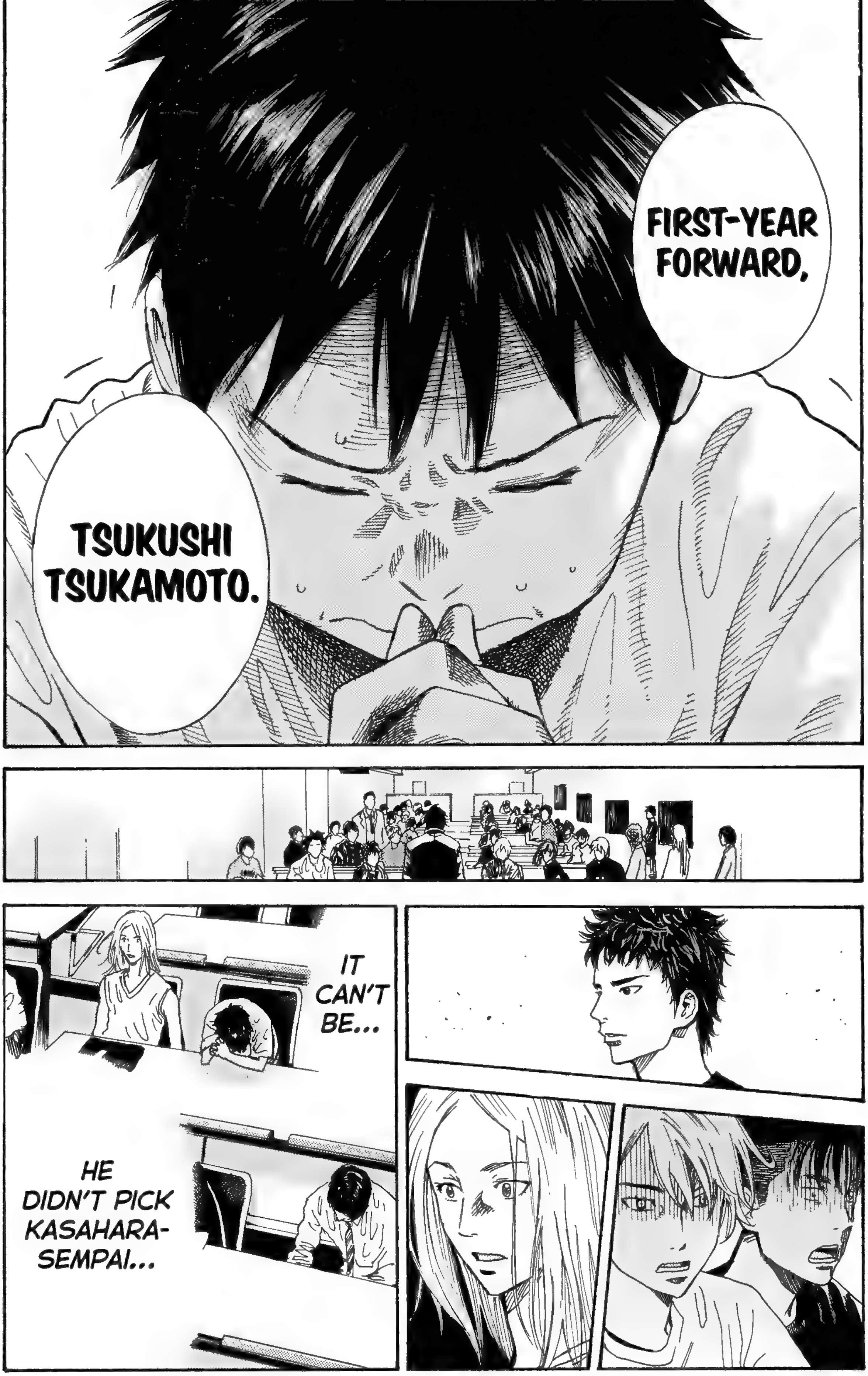

THAT'S WHY HE'S GOT SO MUCH RIDING ON THE INTERHIGH.
I'M SURE EVERYONE ELSE WANTS CASSANO-SEMPAI TO MAKE THE TEAM FOR THE TOURNAMENT, TOO.
KASAHARA-SEMPAI...
CHATTER
CHATTER
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S HERE...

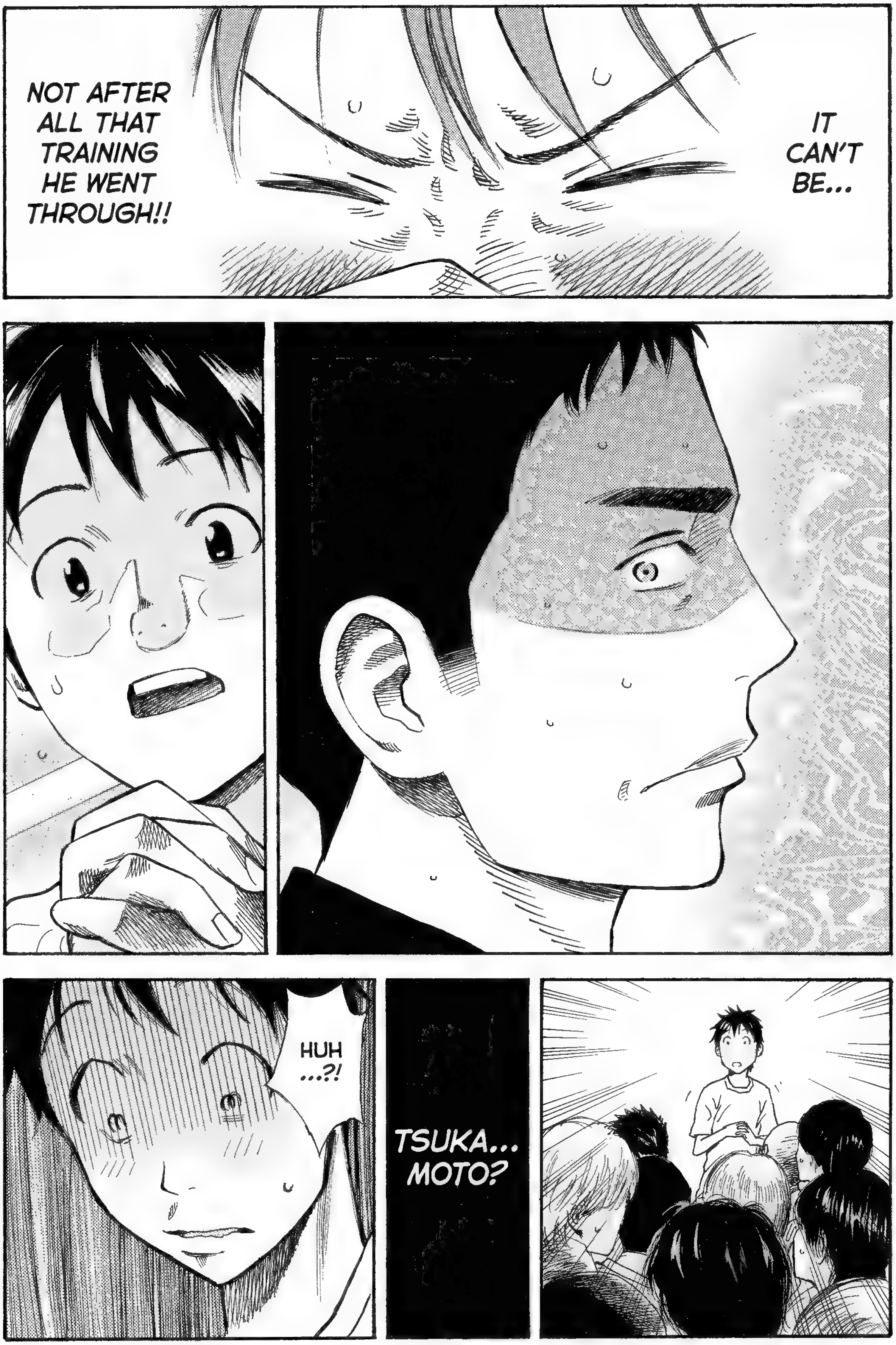

ALLOW ME TO ANNOUNCE THE SEVENTEEN PLAYERS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE INTERHIGH PRELIMINARIES.
ONCE YOUR NAME IS CALLED...
...PLEASE COME UP FRONT TO TAKE YOUR UNIFORM.
"HELP YOU OUT?"
THIS LOOKS LIKE A BIG DEAL...
ONE MORE THING...
UNFORTUNATELY, MIZUKI WILL BE SITTING THIS TOURNAMENT OUT.
GONG
HUH? NO ONE TOLD ME!
THE DOCTORS SAY HE STILL HASN'T MADE A FULL RECOVERY SINCE HURTING HIS LEG.
MIZUKI-SAN'S SITTING IT OUT?
SHOCK
WE'LL BE DOWN A CAPTAIN...
WHO'S GONNA BE #7, THEN?
CHATTER CHATTER
IT TOOK A LOT OF DELIBERATION...
...BUT AFTER TAKING ALL FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION, I'VE MADE MY CHOICES.

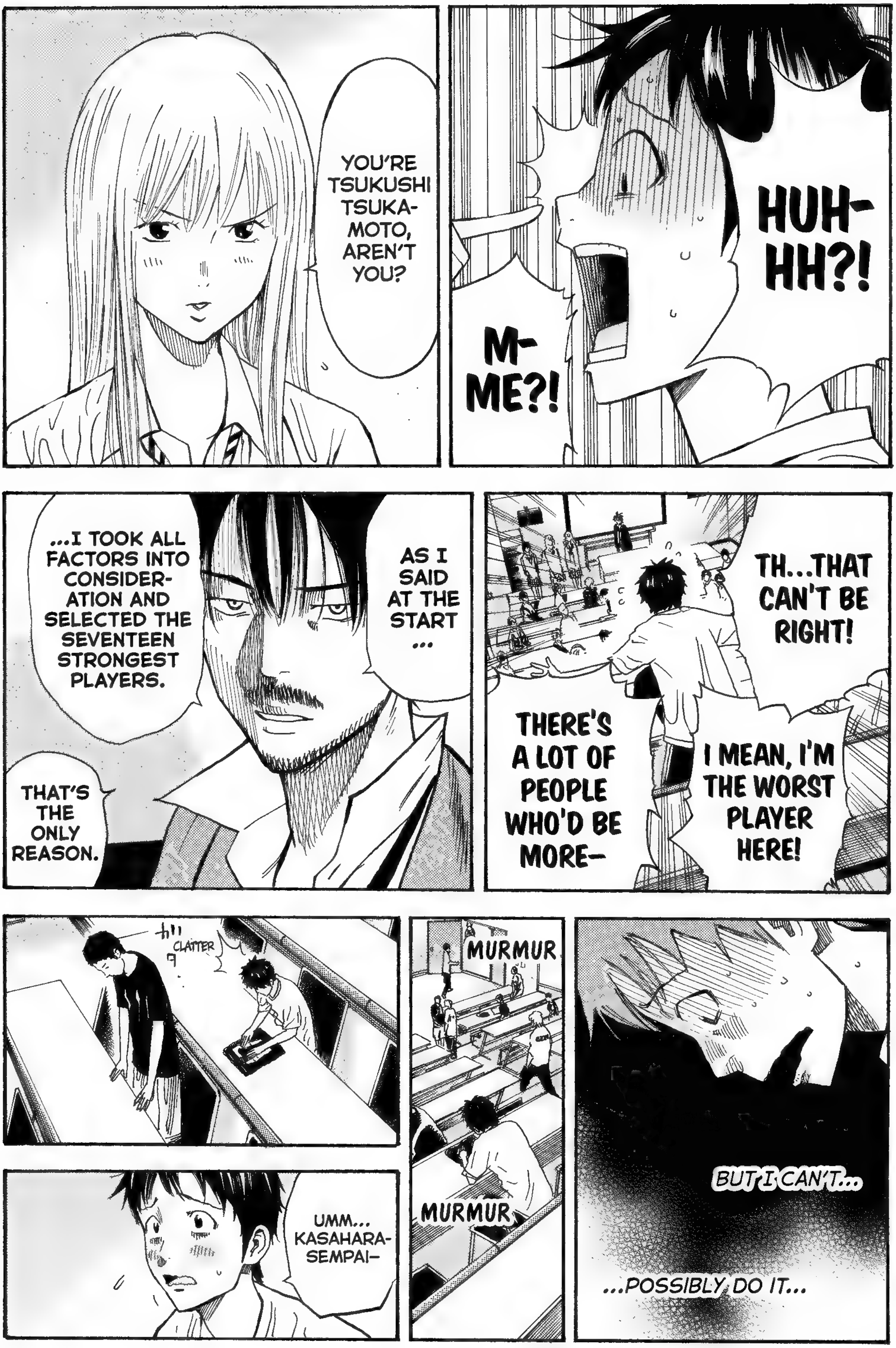

I'VE CHOSEN THE STRONGEST SEVENTEEN OF OUR CLUB'S FIFTY-SEVEN MEMBERS.
BUT I WANT EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU, BACKUP MEMBERS INCLUDED, TO GIVE SEISEKI YOUR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT.
I'LL BEGIN FROM #1...
I KNOW IT'S ONE IN A MILLION, BUT.
GULP
#1, GOALKEEPER...
INOHARA.
I SEE...
EVERYBODY HERE'S GOT TO FIGHT...
...ON BEHALF OF MIZUKI, SINCE HE'S INJURED.
#3...
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHO IS OR ISN'T CHOSEN...
WE'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN, EVEN IF IT'S JUST POLISHING SHOES OR GATHERING BALLS.
#4...
ONCE THE MATCH STARTS, WE'VE GOT TO GIVE IT OUR ALL TO SUPPORT THEM!
I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT MY ALL TO SUPPORT MY UPPERCLASSMEN!!
#7...

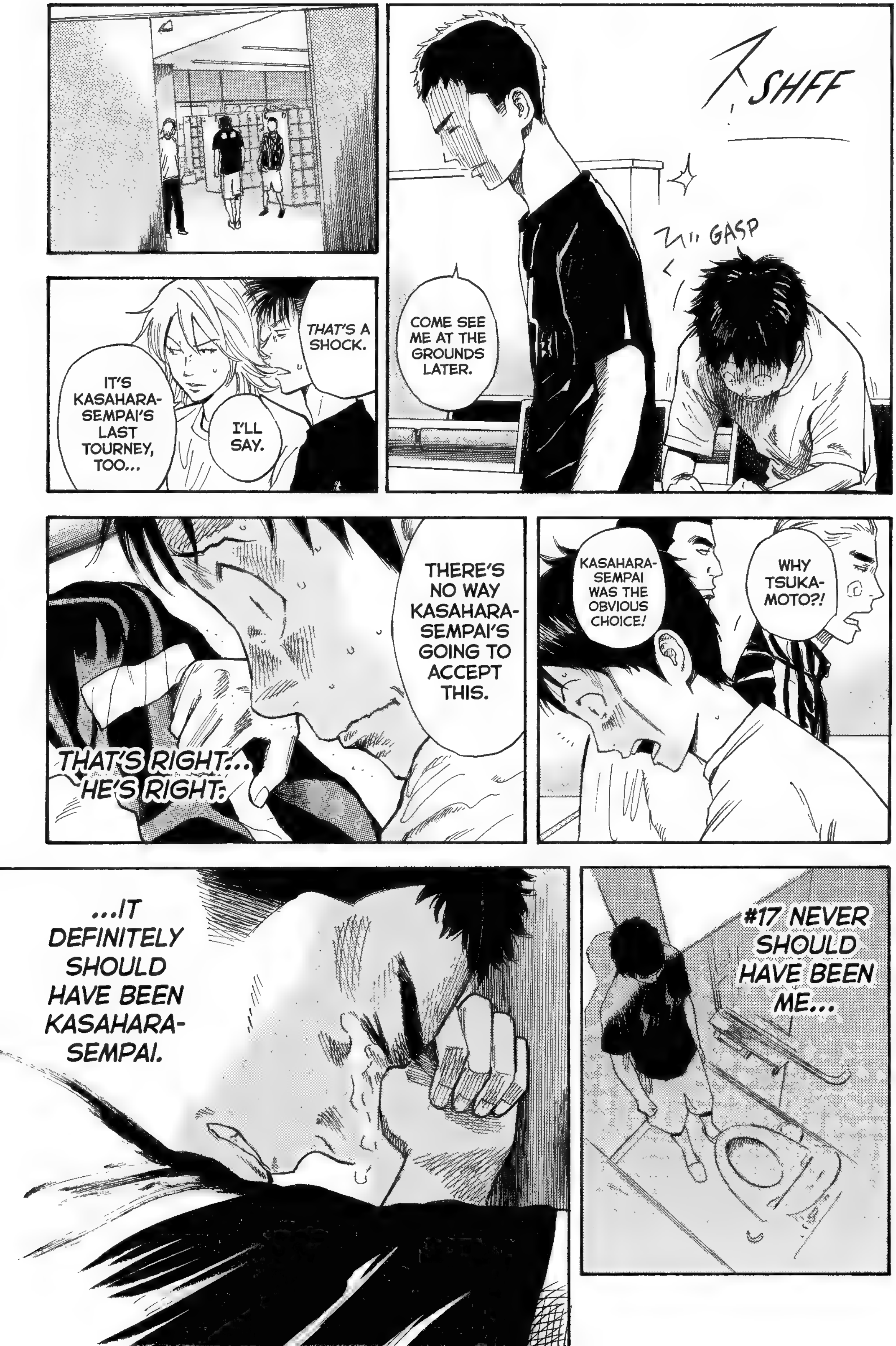

FIRST-YEAR FORWARD, JIN KAZAMA.
MMYES!
WHAT?!
CHATTER
W... WOW!!
KAZAMA-KUN GOT PICKED AFTER ALL!!
7
UBUKATA'S NEMESIS
#9...
AND HE'S WEARING THE #7 JERSEY CAPTAIN MIZUKI ALWAYS WEARS. THAT'S SEISEKI'S ACE NUMBER!!
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
AND HE'S ONLY IN HIS FIRST YEAR! THAT'S AMAZING!!
#10...
WOW... HE'S SO COOL...
#13...
#14...
SEISEKI
GOOONG
THE MATCH...
AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...
HUH?!
WE'RE DONE ALREADY?!

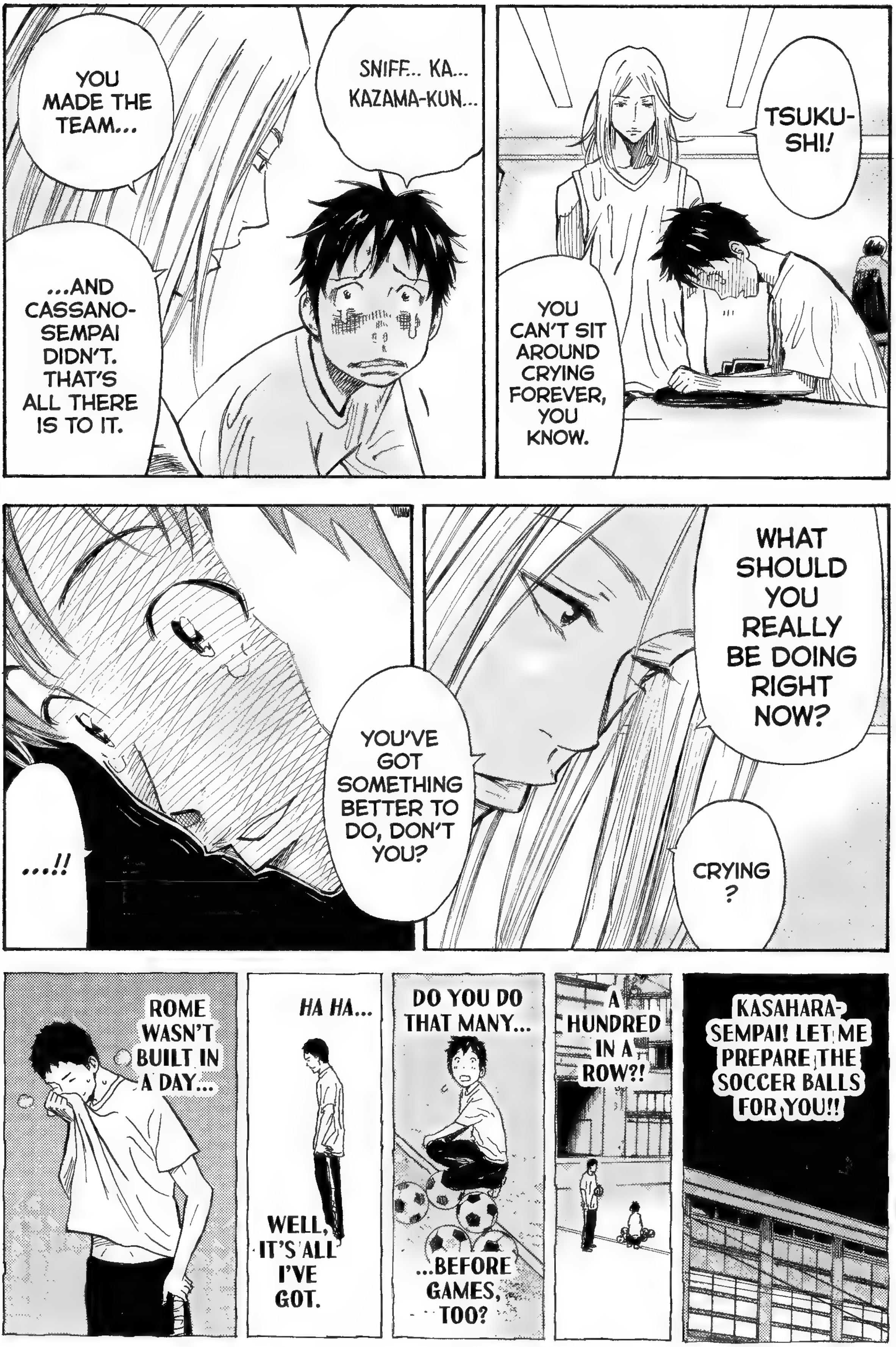

WHAT?!
KASAHARA-SEMPAI HASN'T BEEN PICKED YET?!
NO, I'M SURE HE'S FINE!
HE'S FINE. HE'S GOT TO BE!!
#17...
KASAHARA-SEMPAI'S GOT A LOT RIDING ON THIS DAY.
HE'S DONE MORE SHOOTING DRILLS THAN ANYONE ELSE THIS MONTH!
...
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
KASAHARA-SEMPAI...
KASAHARA-SEMPAI...
BA-THUMP

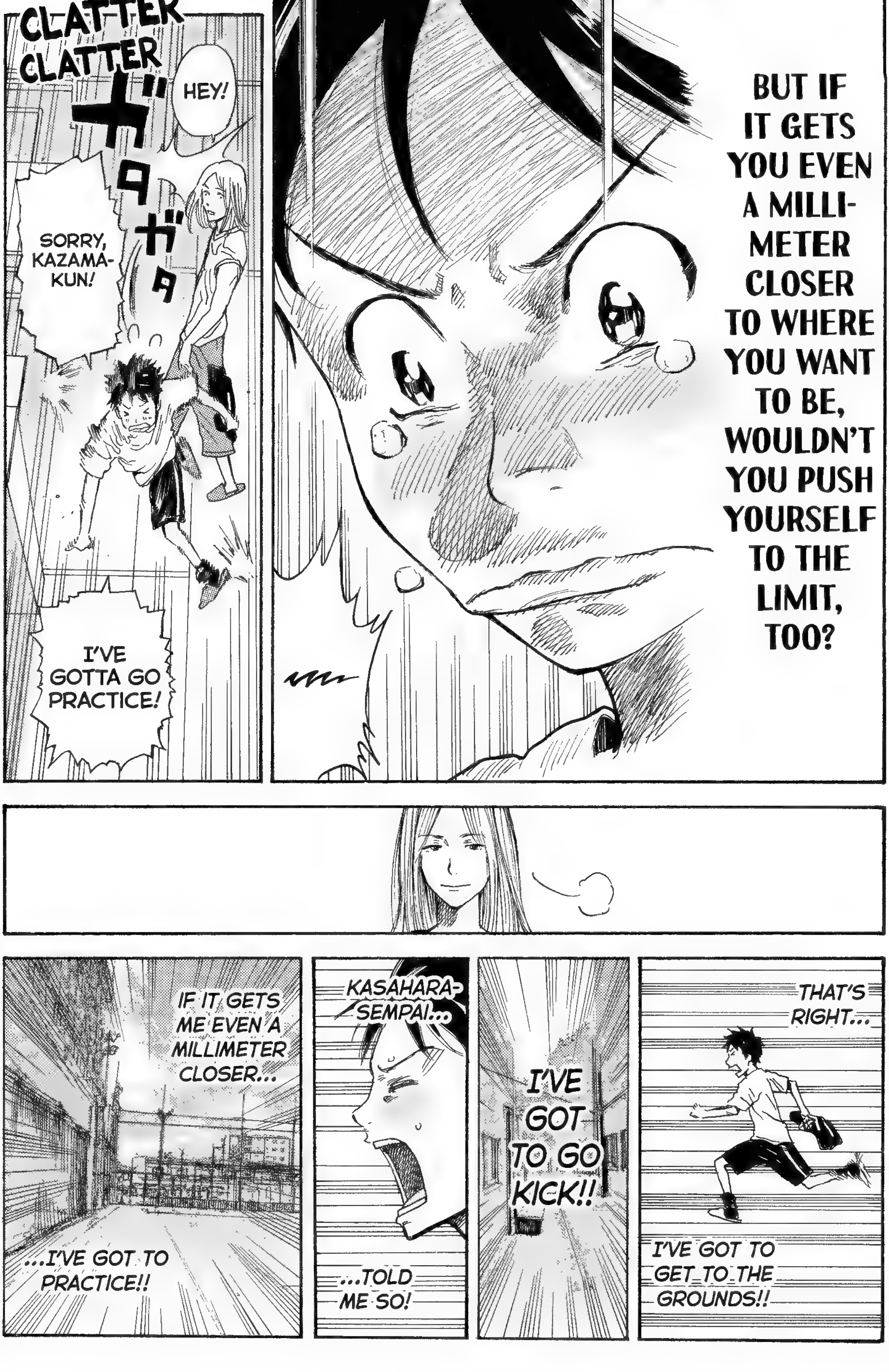

FIRST-YEAR FORWARD,
TSUKUSHI TSUKAMOTO.
IT CAN'T BE...
HE DIDN'T PICK KASAHARA-SEMPAI...

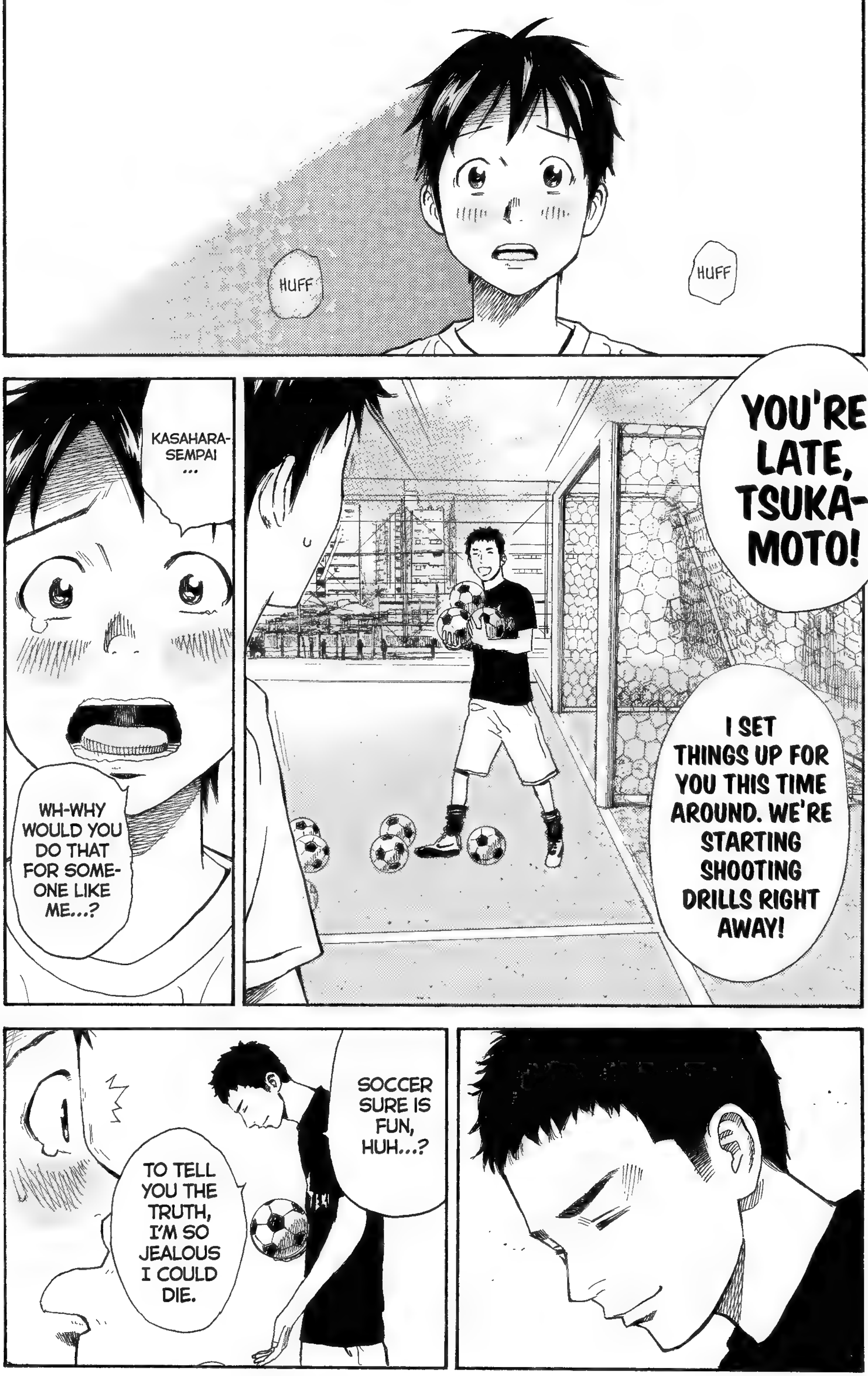

IT CAN'T BE...
NOT AFTER ALL THAT TRAINING HE WENT THROUGH!!
TSUKA... MOTO?
HUH ...?!

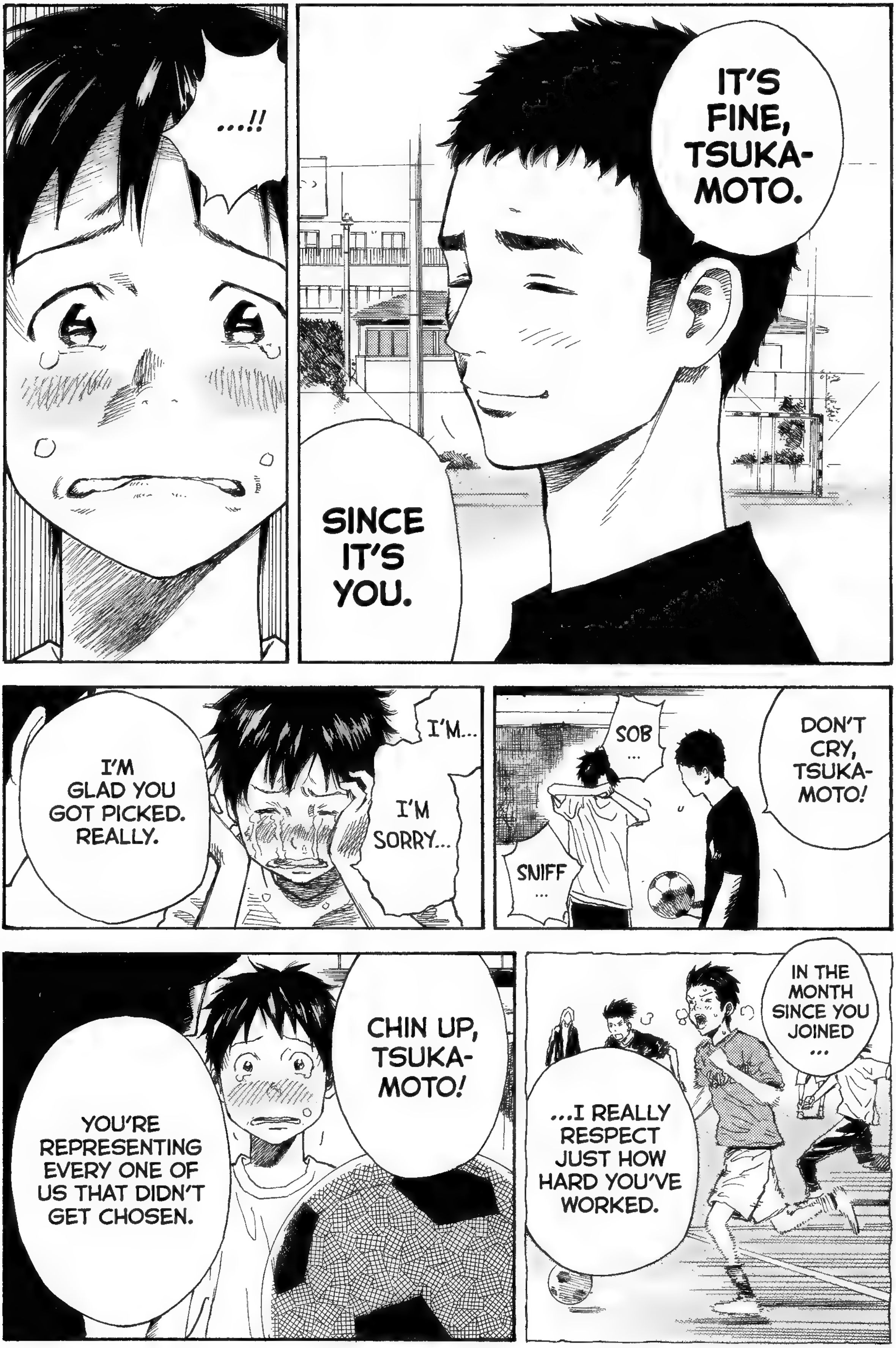

YOU'RE TSUKUSHI TSUKAMOTO, AREN'T YOU?
HUH-HH?!
M-ME?!
AS I SAID AT THE START...
...I TOOK ALL FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION AND SELECTED THE SEVENTEEN STRONGEST PLAYERS.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON.
TH...THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
I MEAN, I'M THE WORST PLAYER HERE!
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO'D BE MORE-
CLATTER
UMM... KASAHARA-SEMPAI-
MURMUR
MURMUR
BUT I CAN'T...
...POSSIBLY DO IT...

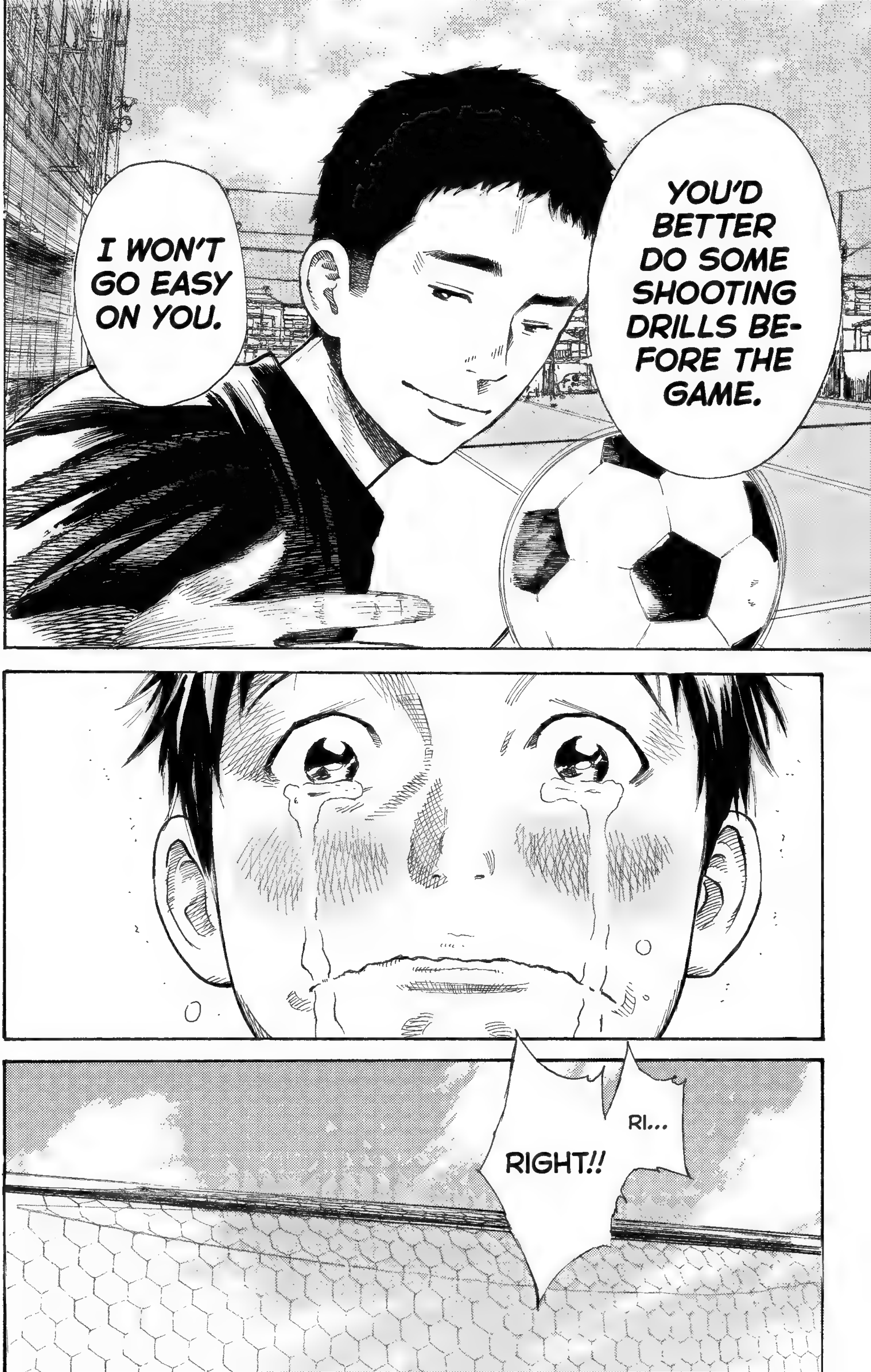

SHFF
GASP
COME SEE ME AT THE GROUNDS LATER.
THAT'S A SHOCK.
I'LL SAY.
IT'S KASAHARA-SEMPAI'S LAST TOURNEY, TOO...
WHY TSUKAMOTO?!
KASAHARA-SEMPAI WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE!
THERE'S NO WAY KASAHARA-SEMPAI'S GOING TO ACCEPT THIS.
THAT'S RIGHT... HE'S RIGHT.
#17 NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME...
...IT DEFINITELY SHOULD HAVE BEEN KASAHARA-SEMPAI.

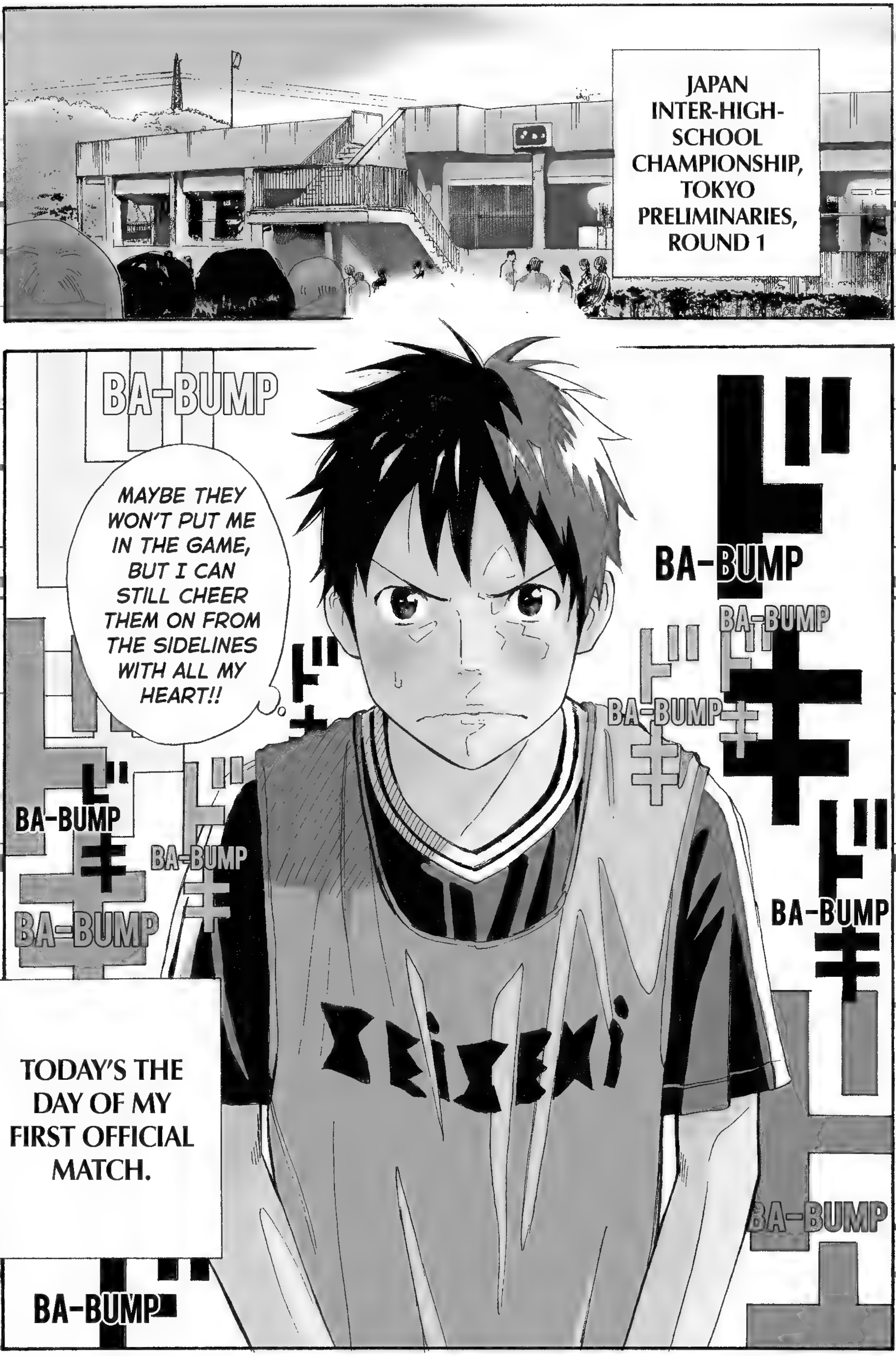

TSUKUSHI!
YOU CAN'T SIT AROUND CRYING FOREVER, YOU KNOW.
SNIFF... KA... KAZAMA-KUN...
YOU MADE THE TEAM...
...AND CASSANO-SEMPAI DIDN'T. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
WHAT SHOULD YOU REALLY BE DOING RIGHT NOW?
CRYING?
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER TO DO, DON'T YOU?
...!!
KASAHARA-SEMPAI! LET ME PREPARE THE SOCCER BALLS FOR YOU!!
A HUNDRED IN A ROW?!
DO YOU DO THAT MANY...
...BEFORE GAMES, TOO?
HA HA...
WELL, IT'S ALL I'VE GOT.
ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY...

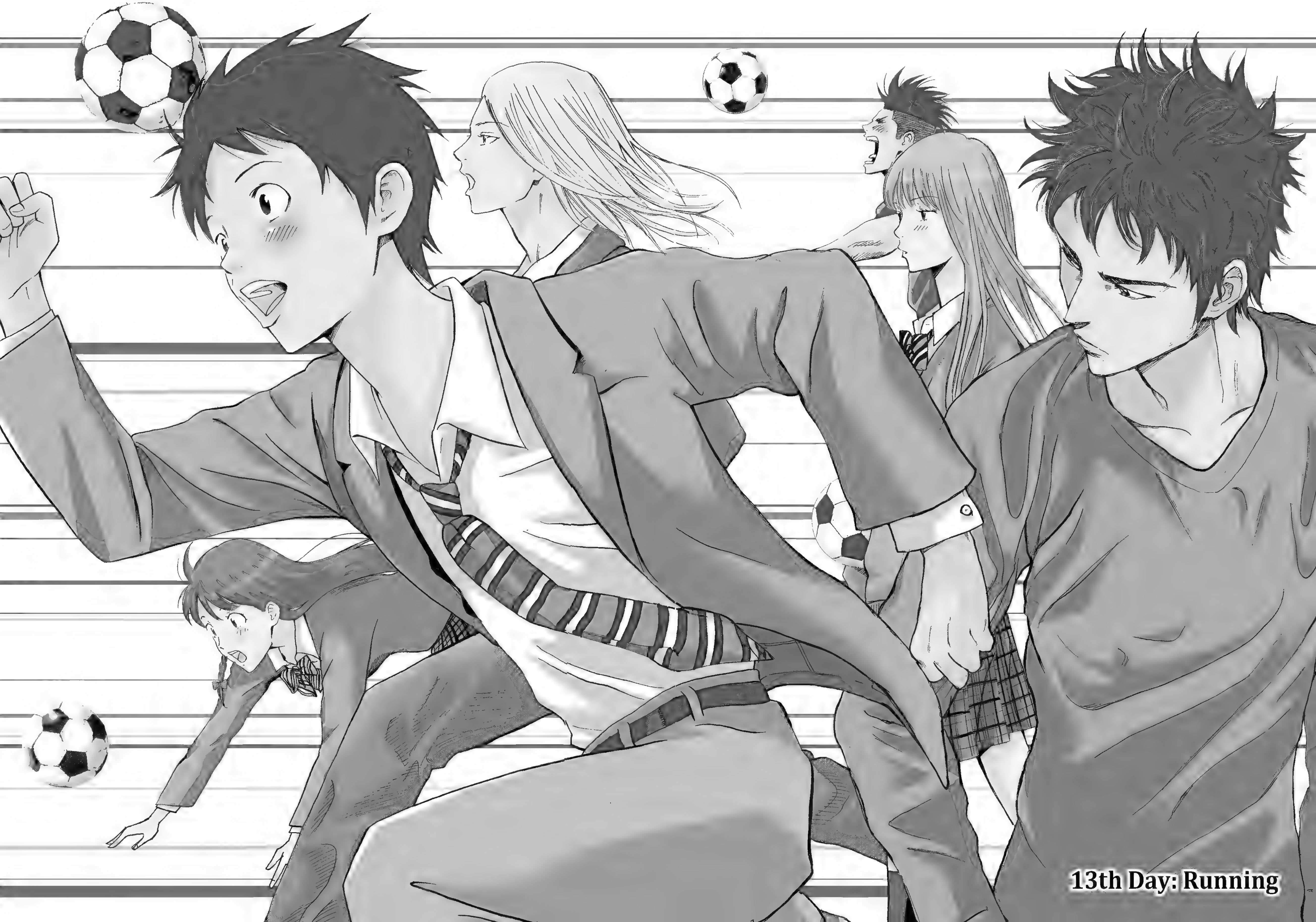

BUT IF IT GETS YOU EVEN A MILLIMETER CLOSER TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE, WOULDN'T YOU PUSH YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT, TOO?
CLATTER CLATTER
ガタガタ
HEY!
SORRY, KAZAMA-KUN!
I'VE GOTTA GO PRACTICE!
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE GROUNDS!!
I'VE GOT TO GO KICK!!
KASAHARA-SEMPAI...
...TOLD ME SO!
IF IT GETS ME EVEN A MILLIMETER CLOSER...
...I'VE GOT TO PRACTICE!!


HUFF
HUFF
YOU'RE LATE, TSUKAMOTO!
I SET THINGS UP FOR YOU THIS TIME AROUND. WE'RE STARTING SHOOTING DRILLS RIGHT AWAY!
KASAHARA-SEMPAI...
WH-WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...?
SOCCER SURE IS FUN, HUH...?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M SO JEALOUS I COULD DIE.


IT'S FINE, TSUKAMOTO.
SINCE IT'S YOU.
...!!
DON'T CRY, TSUKAMOTO!
SOB ...
SNIFF ...
I'M...
I'M SORRY...
I'M GLAD YOU GOT PICKED. REALLY.
IN THE MONTH SINCE YOU JOINED ...
...I REALLY RESPECT JUST HOW HARD YOU'VE WORKED.
CHIN UP, TSUKAMOTO!
YOU'RE REPRESENTING EVERY ONE OF US THAT DIDN'T GET CHOSEN.


YOU'D BETTER DO SOME SHOOTING DRILLS BEFORE THE GAME.
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU.
RI...
RIGHT!!

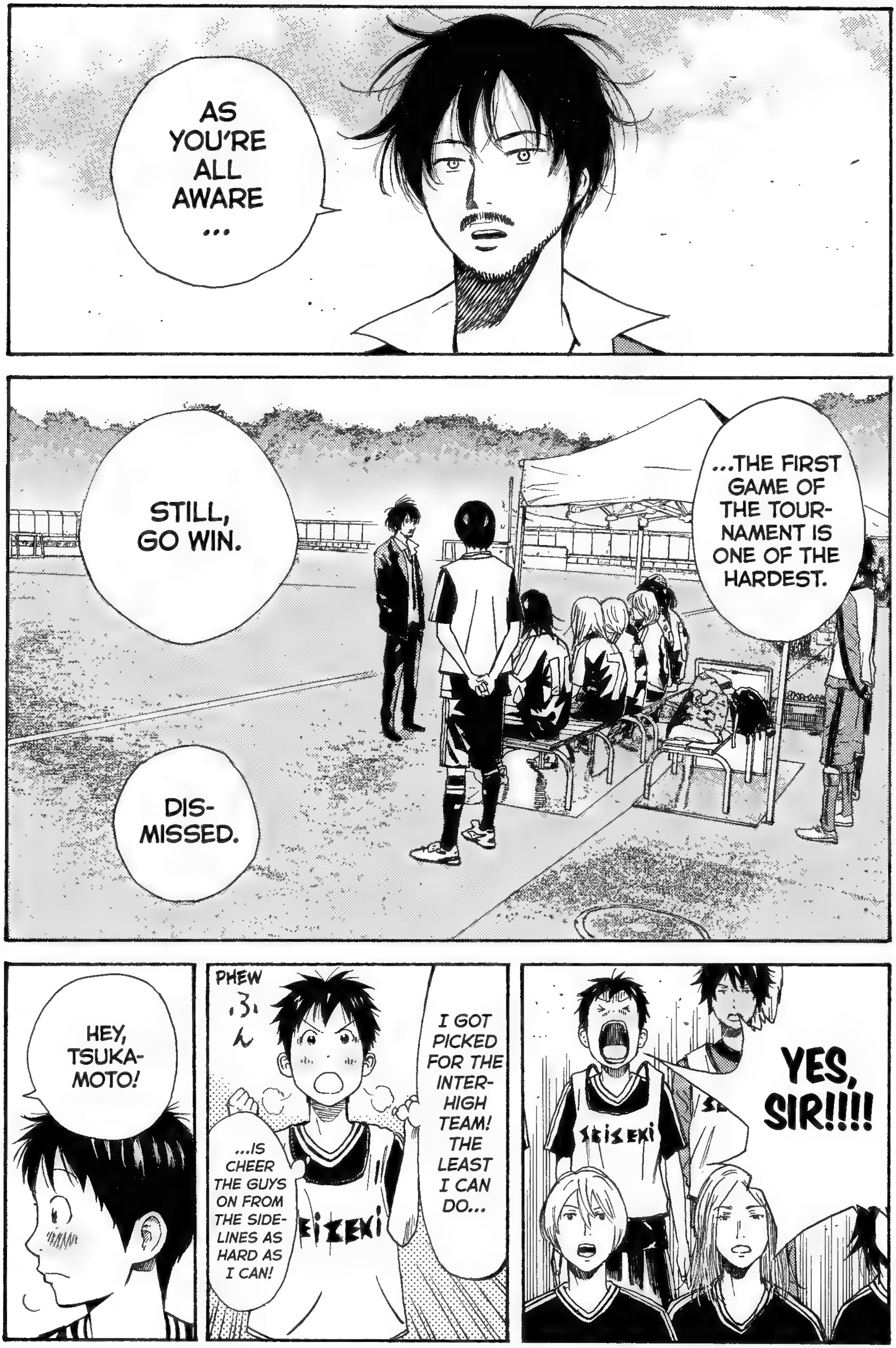

JAPAN INTER-HIGH-SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP, TOKYO PRELIMINARIES, ROUND 1
ドキドキ
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
ドキ
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
MAYBE THEY WON'T PUT ME IN THE GAME, BUT I CAN STILL CHEER THEM ON FROM THE SIDELINES WITH ALL MY HEART!!
BA-BUMP
ドキ
BA-BUMP
ドキ
BA-BUMP
ドキ
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
SEISEKI
TODAY'S THE DAY OF MY FIRST OFFICIAL MATCH.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP

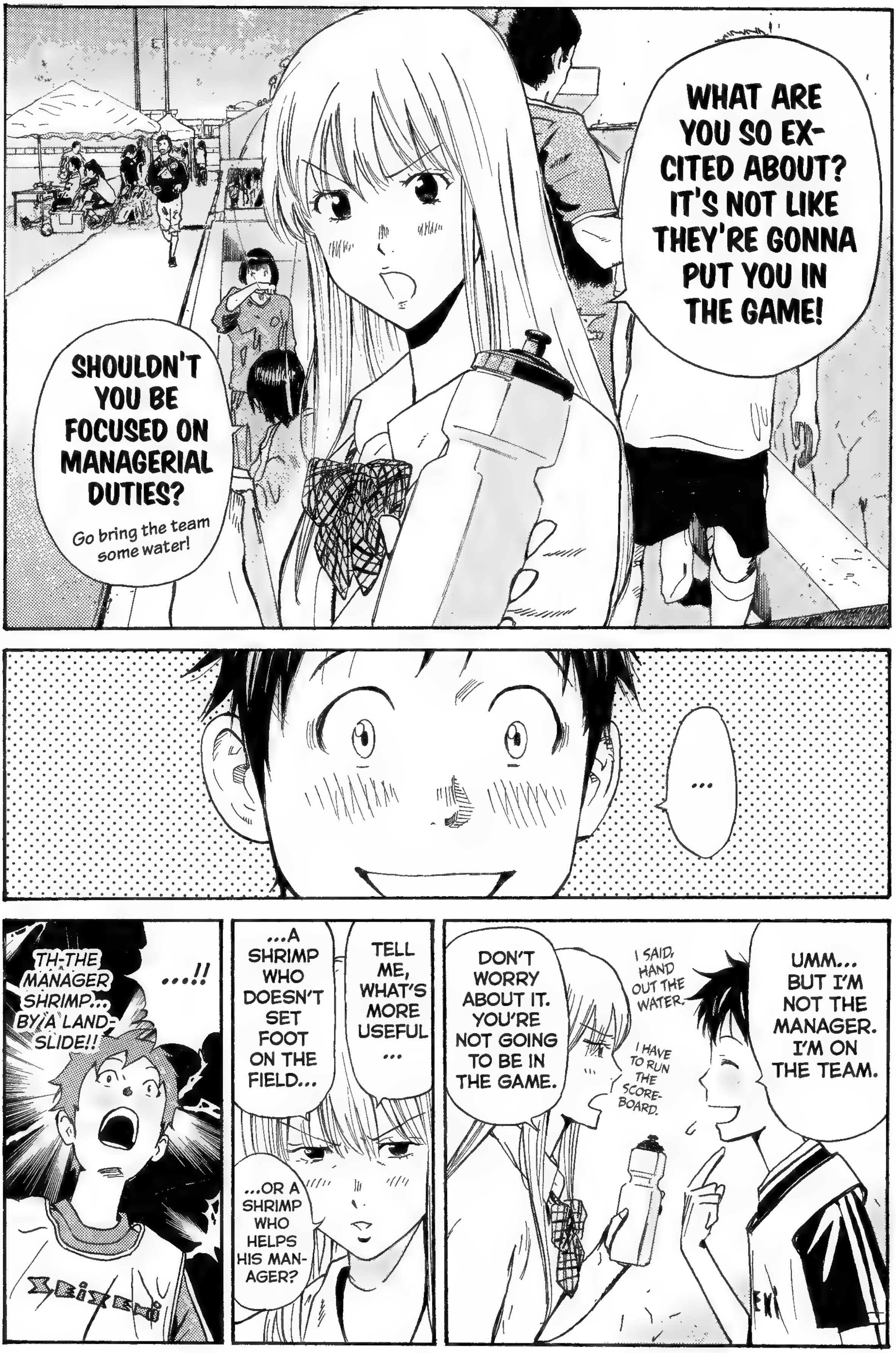


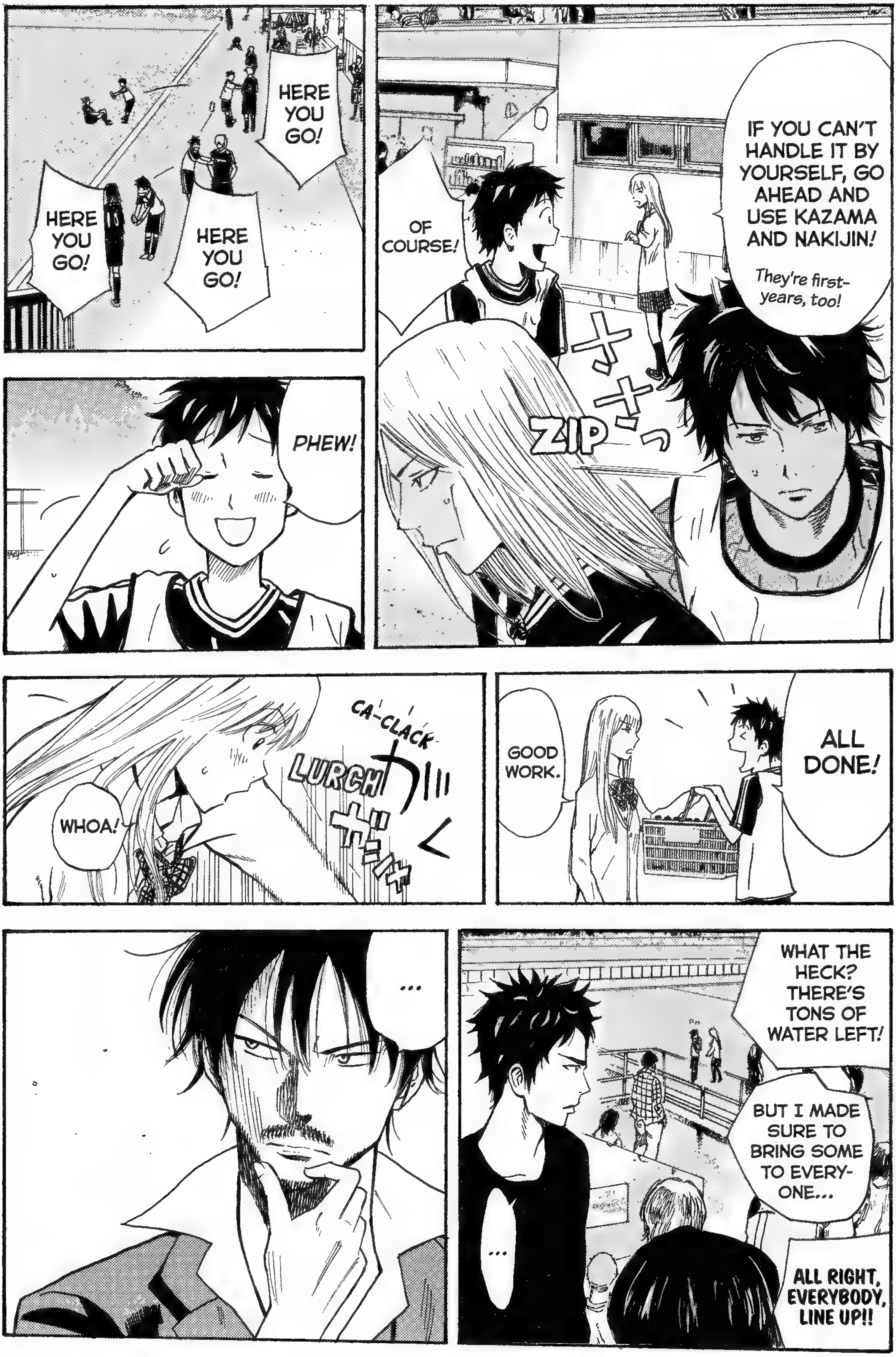
13th Day: Running

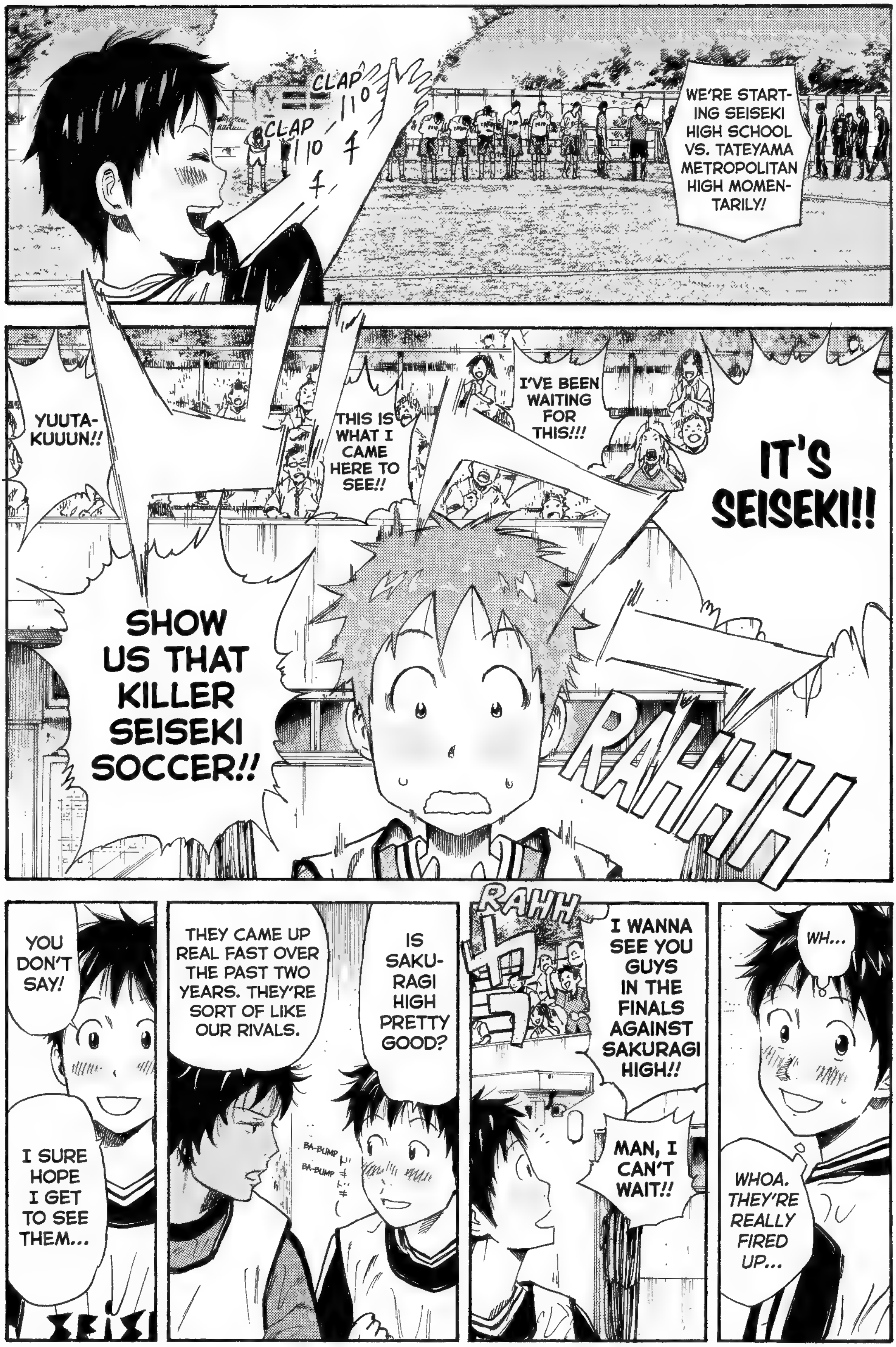
DAYS

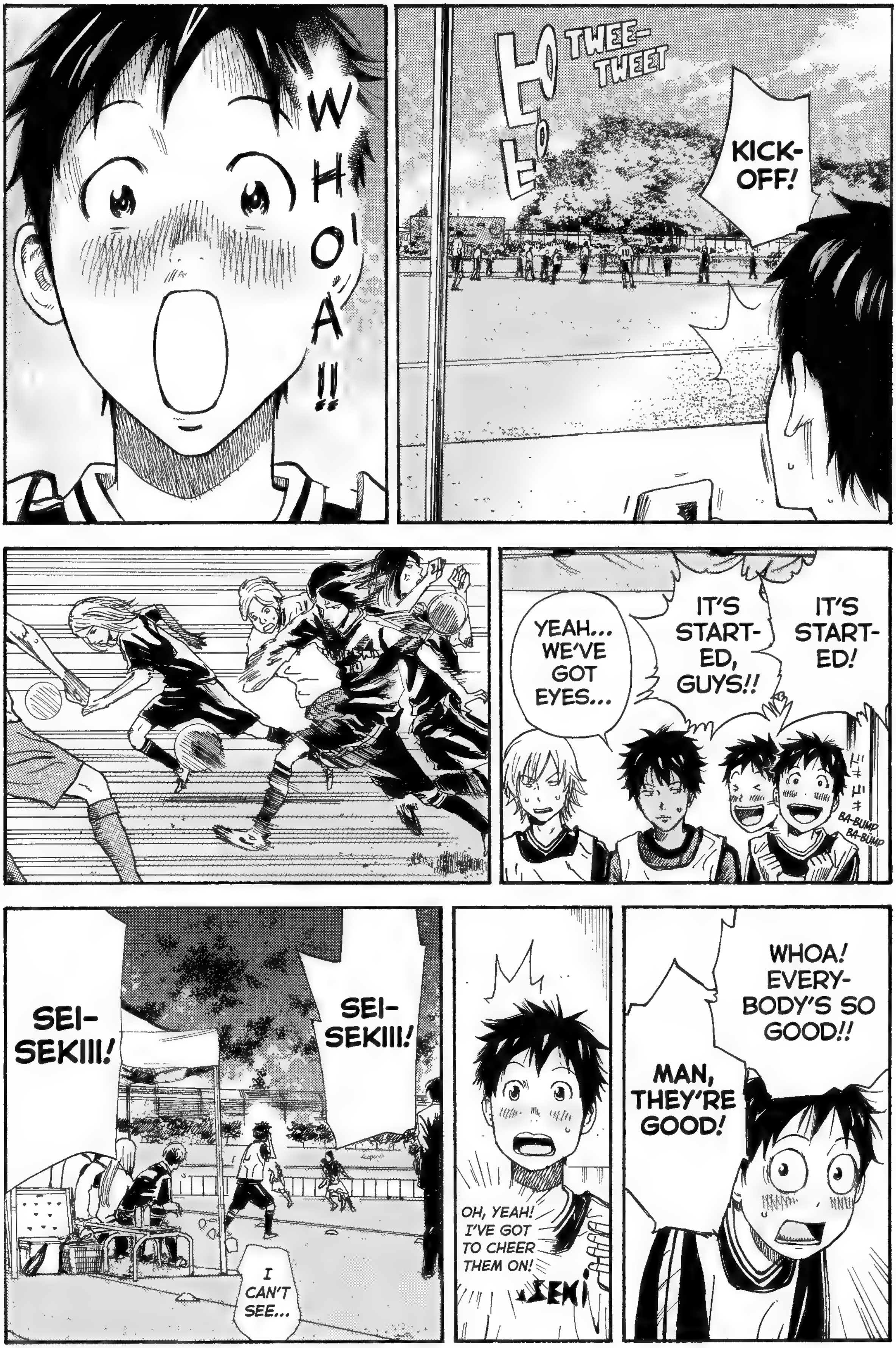
TSUYOSHI
YASUDA

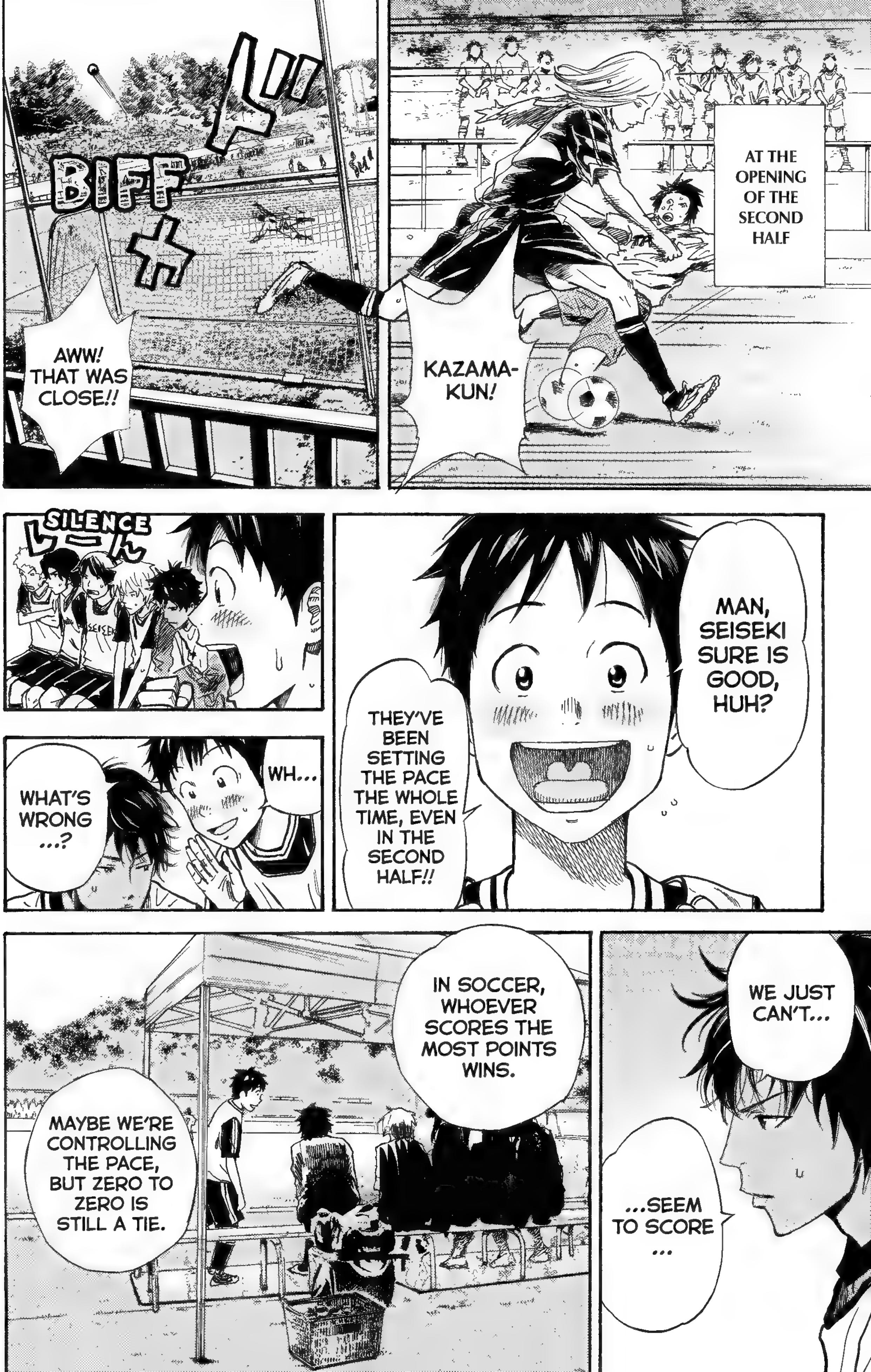

AS YOU'RE ALL AWARE...
...THE FIRST GAME OF THE TOURNAMENT IS ONE OF THE HARDEST.
STILL, GO WIN.
DISMISSED.
YES, SIR!!!!
PHEW ふん
I GOT PICKED FOR THE INTER-HIGH TEAM! THE LEAST I CAN DO...
...IS CHEER THE GUYS ON FROM THE SIDELINES AS HARD AS I CAN!
SEISEKI
HEY, TSUKAMOTO!

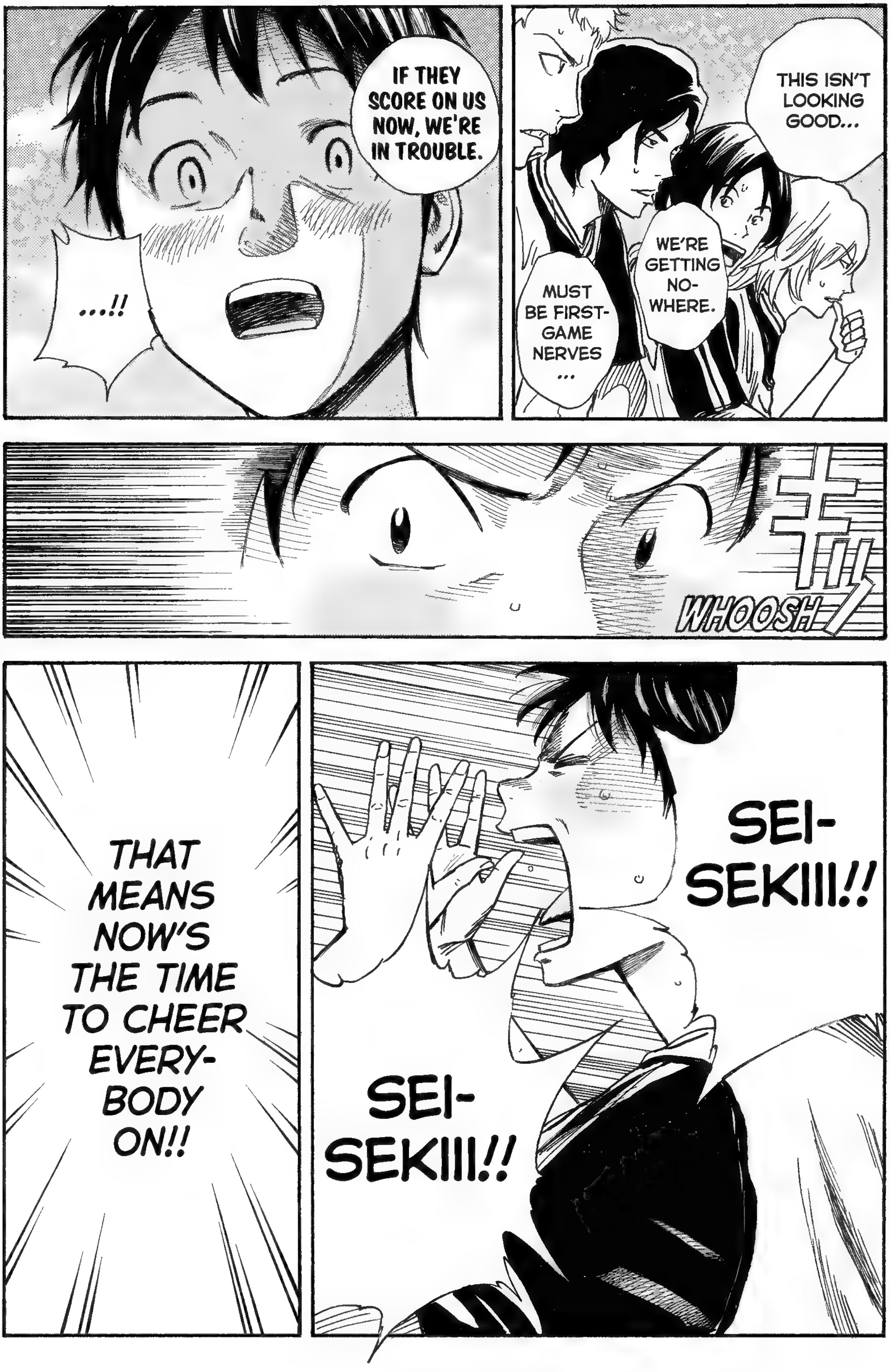

WHAT ARE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT? IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE GONNA PUT YOU IN THE GAME!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE FOCUSED ON MANAGERIAL DUTIES?
Go bring the team some water!
...
UMM... BUT I'M NOT THE MANAGER. I'M ON THE TEAM.
I SAID, HAND OUT THE WATER.
I HAVE TO RUN THE SCOREBOARD.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE IN THE GAME.
TELL ME, WHAT'S MORE USEFUL...
...A SHRIMP WHO DOESN'T SET FOOT ON THE FIELD...
...OR A SHRIMP WHO HELPS HIS MANAGER?
...!!
TH-THE MANAGER SHRIMP... BY A LANDSLIDE!!

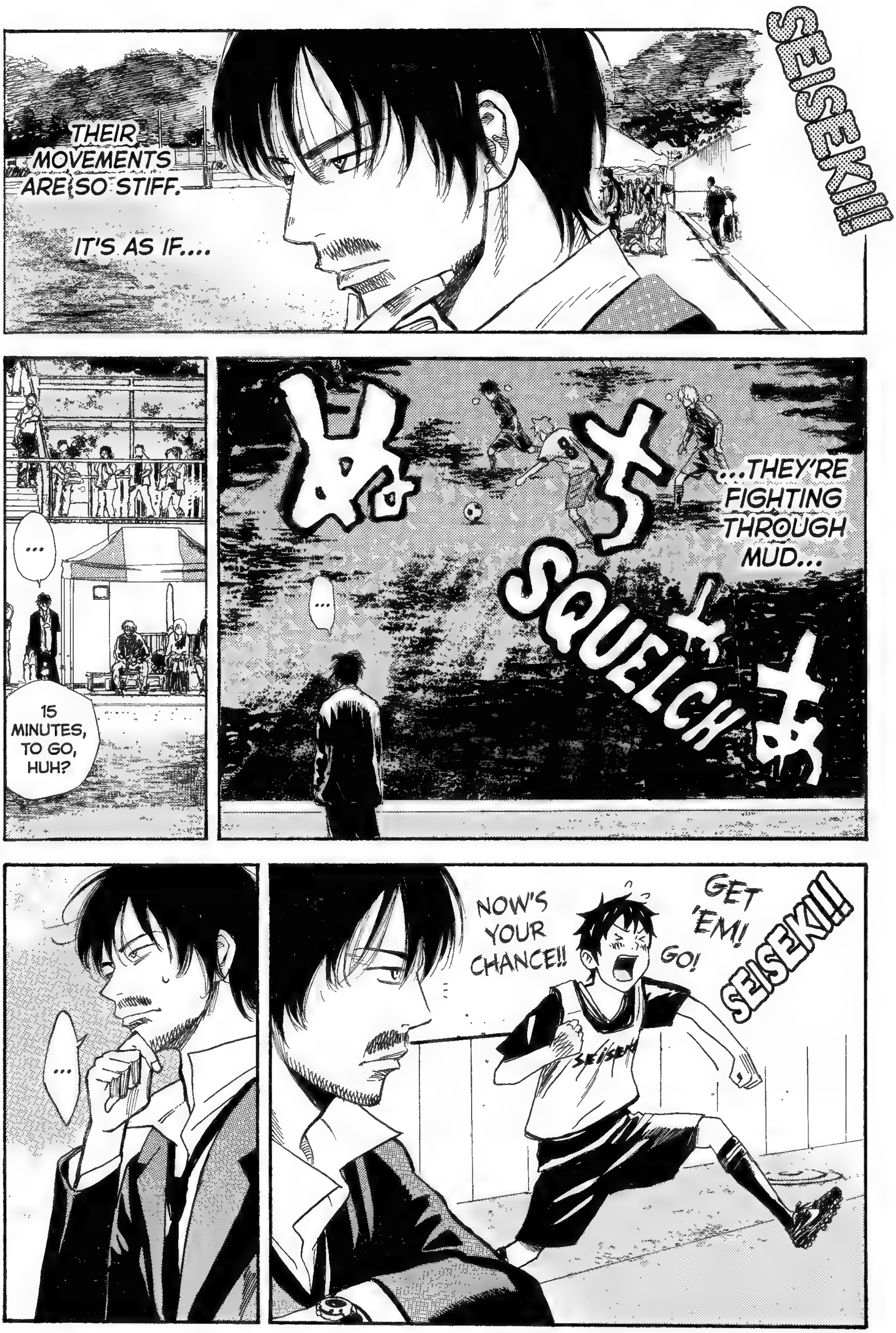

IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT BY YOURSELF, GO AHEAD AND USE KAZAMA AND NAKIJIN!
They're first-years, too!
OF COURSE!
ZIP
HERE YOU GO!
HERE YOU GO!
HERE YOU GO!
PHEW!
ALL DONE!
GOOD WORK.
CA-CLACK
LURCH
WHOA!
WHAT THE HECK? THERE'S TONS OF WATER LEFT!
BUT I MADE SURE TO BRING SOME TO EVERY-ONE...
...
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY, LINE UP!!
...

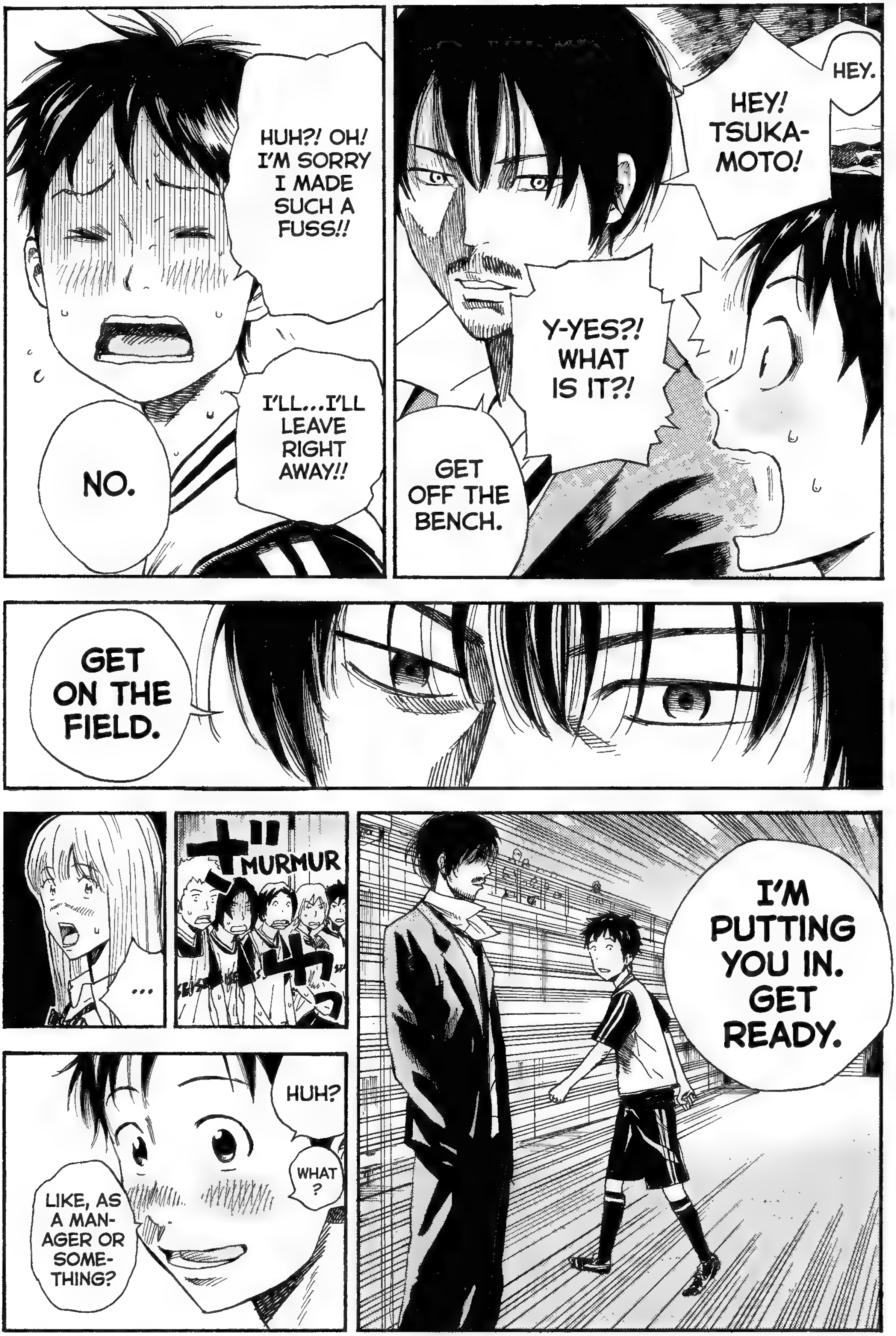

CLAP
CLAP
WE'RE STARTING SEISEKI HIGH SCHOOL VS. TATEYAMA METROPOLITAN HIGH MOMENTARILY!
IT'S SEISEKI!!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!!!
THIS IS WHAT I CAME HERE TO SEE!!
YUUTA-KUUUN!!
SHOW US THAT KILLER SEISEKI SOCCER!!
RAHHH
WH...
WHOA. THEY'RE REALLY FIRED UP...
RAHH
I WANNA SEE YOU GUYS IN THE FINALS AGAINST SAKURAGI HIGH!!
MAN, I CAN'T WAIT!!
IS SAKURAGI HIGH PRETTY GOOD?
THEY CAME UP REAL FAST OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THEY'RE SORT OF LIKE OUR RIVALS.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
YOU DON'T SAY!
I SURE HOPE I GET TO SEE THEM...

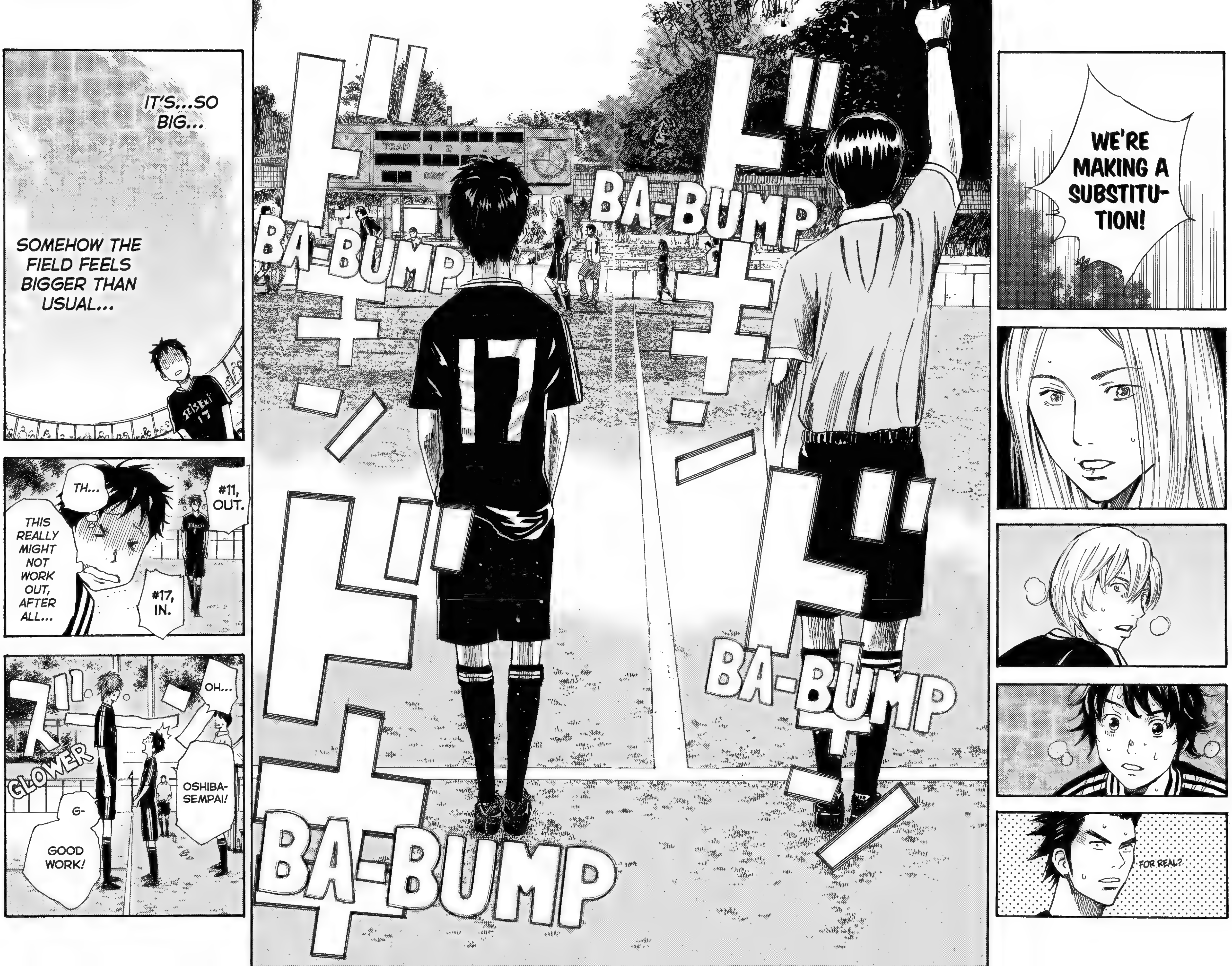

TWEE-TWEET
KICK-OFF!
WHOA!!
IT'S STARTED!
IT'S STARTED, GUYS!!
YEAH... WE'VE GOT EYES...
ドキドキ
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
WHOA! EVERYBODY'S SO GOOD!!
MAN, THEY'RE GOOD!
OH, YEAH! I'VE GOT TO CHEER THEM ON!
SEKI
SEI-SEKIII!
SEI-SEKIII!
I CAN'T SEE...

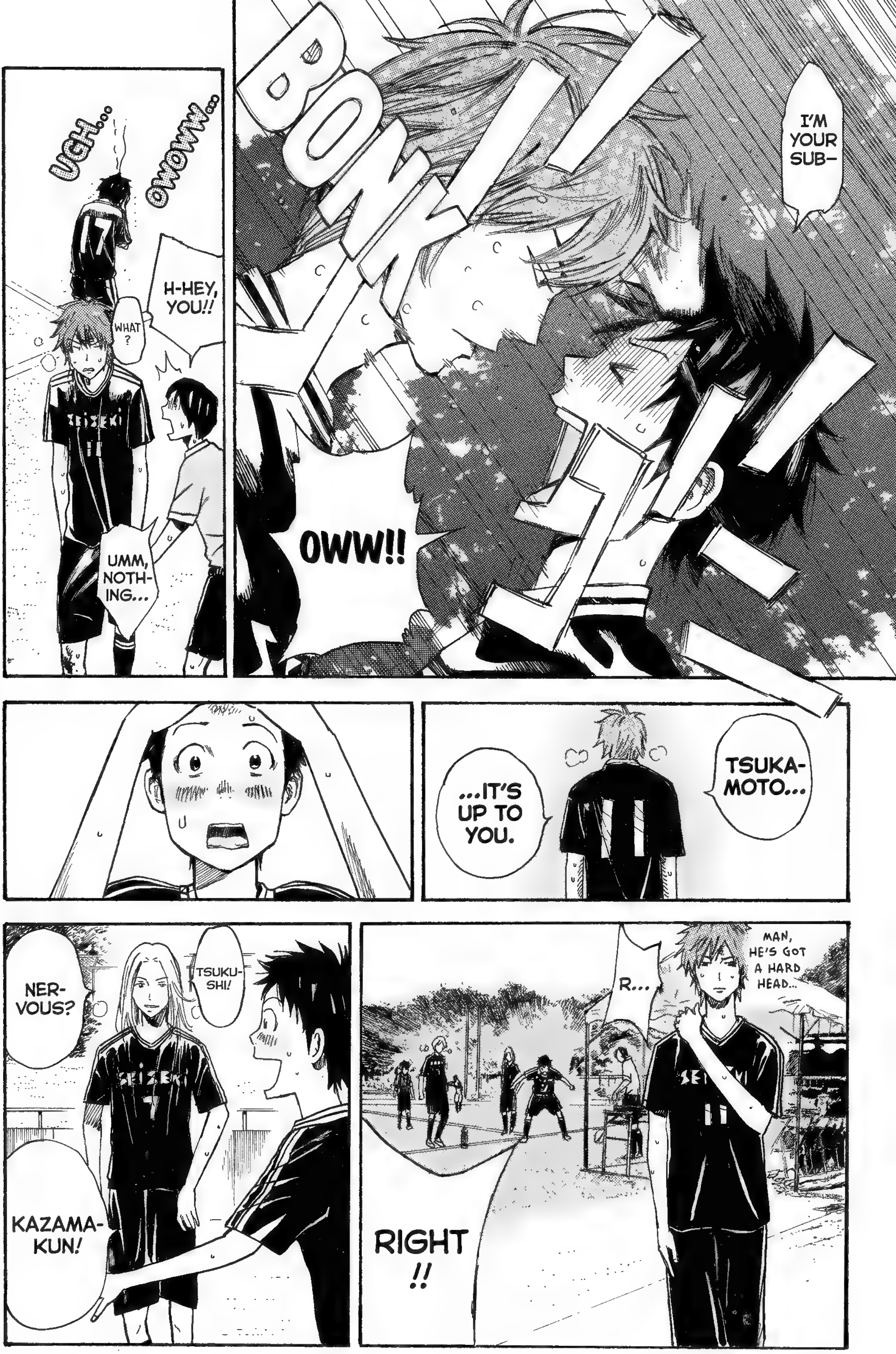

AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND HALF
KAZAMA-KUN!
ド
BIFF
AWW! THAT WAS CLOSE!!
MAN, SEISEKI SURE IS GOOD, HUH?
THEY'VE BEEN SETTING THE PACE THE WHOLE TIME, EVEN IN THE SECOND HALF!!
SILENCE
WH...
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
WE JUST CAN'T...
...SEEM TO SCORE ...
IN SOCCER, WHOEVER SCORES THE MOST POINTS WINS.
MAYBE WE'RE CONTROLLING THE PACE, BUT ZERO TO ZERO IS STILL A TIE.

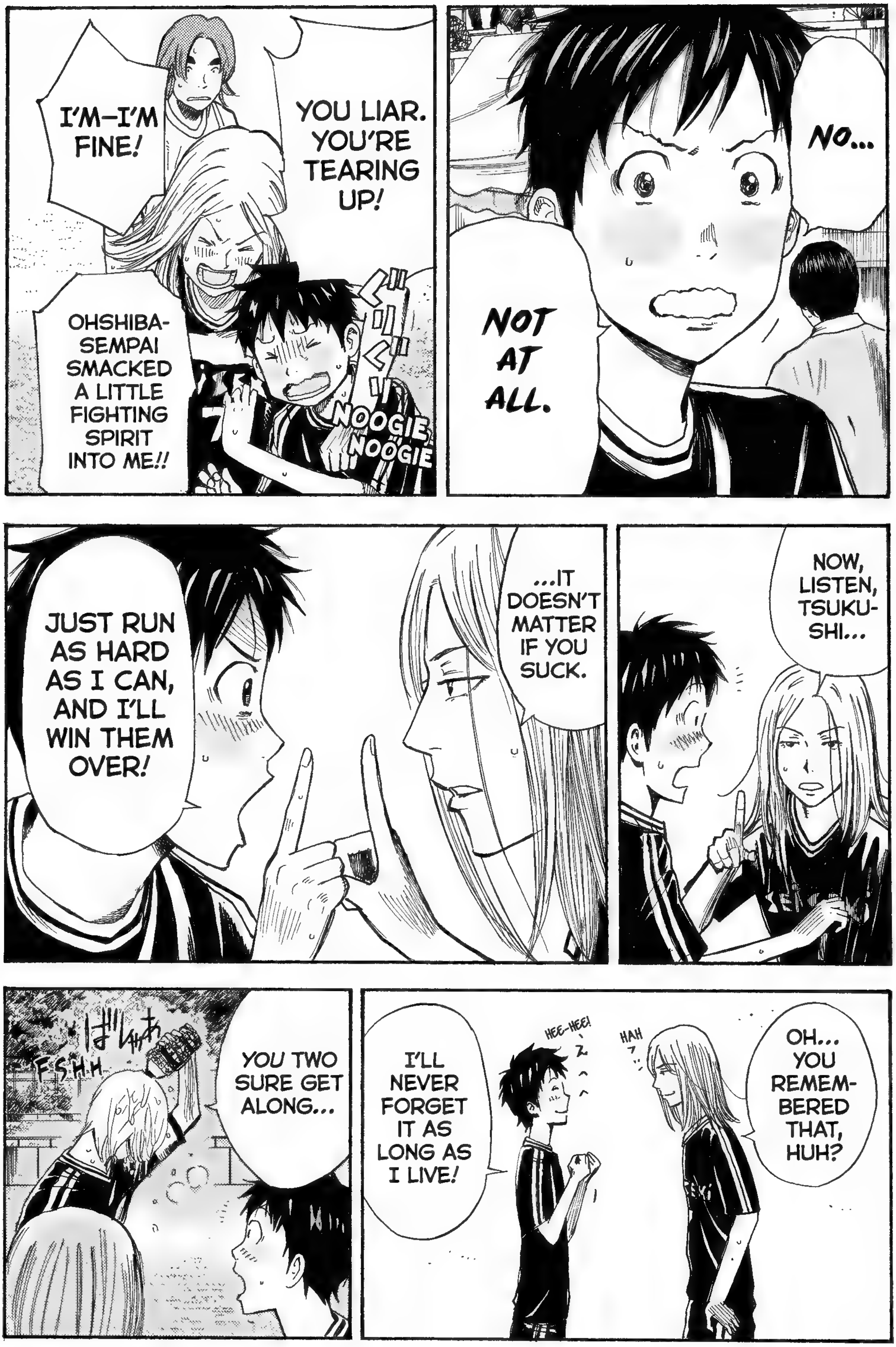

THIS ISN'T LOOKING GOOD...
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE.
MUST BE FIRST-GAME NERVES...
IF THEY SCORE ON US NOW, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
...!!
キッ
WHOOSH
SEI-SEKIII!!
SEI-SEKIII!!
THAT MEANS NOW'S THE TIME TO CHEER EVERYBODY ON!!

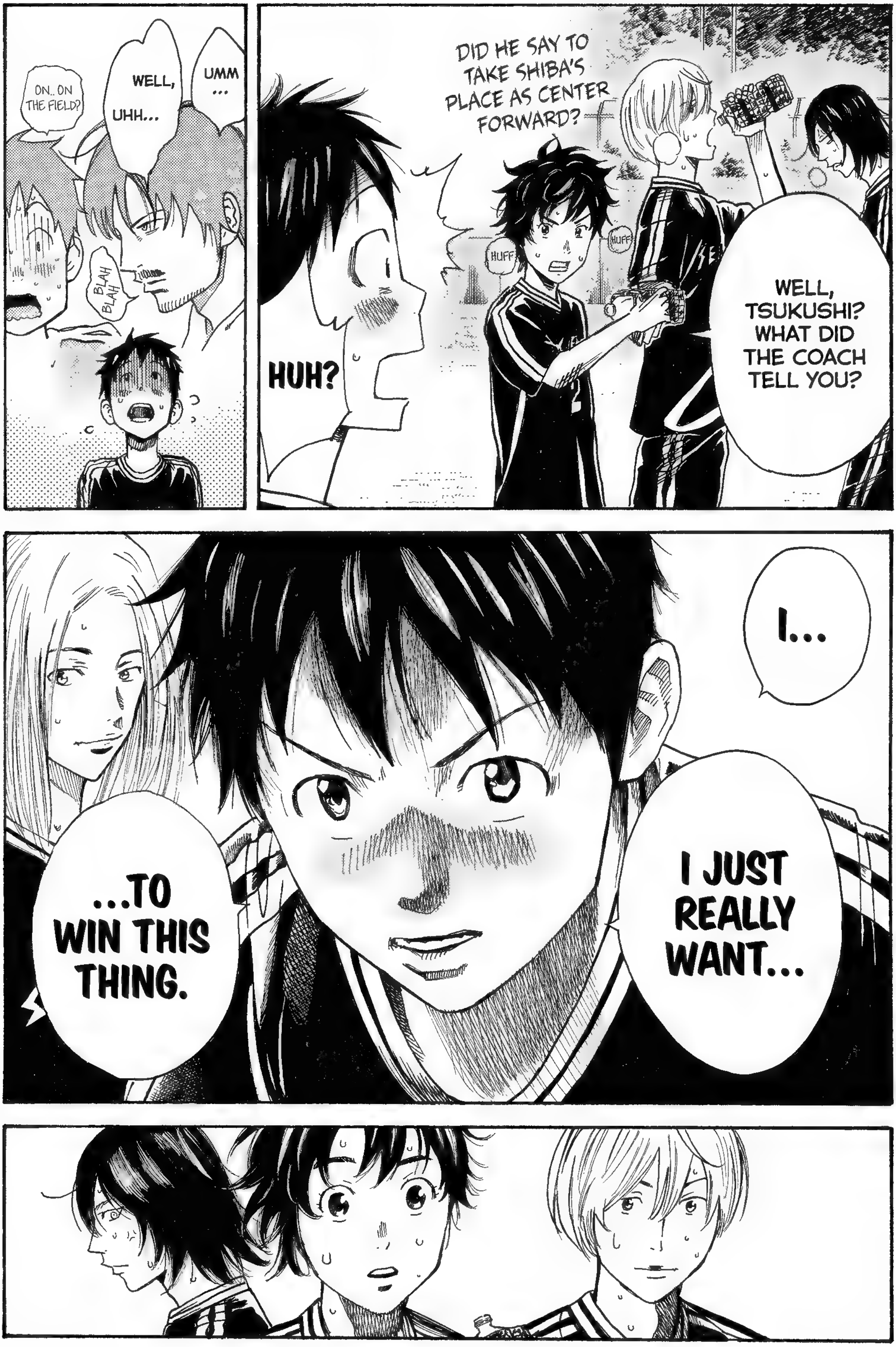

SEISEKI!!
THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE SO STIFF.
IT'S AS IF....
...THEY'RE FIGHTING THROUGH MUD...
SQUELCH
...
...
15 MINUTES, TO GO, HUH?
SEISEKI!!
GET 'EM! GO!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!!
SEISEKI
...

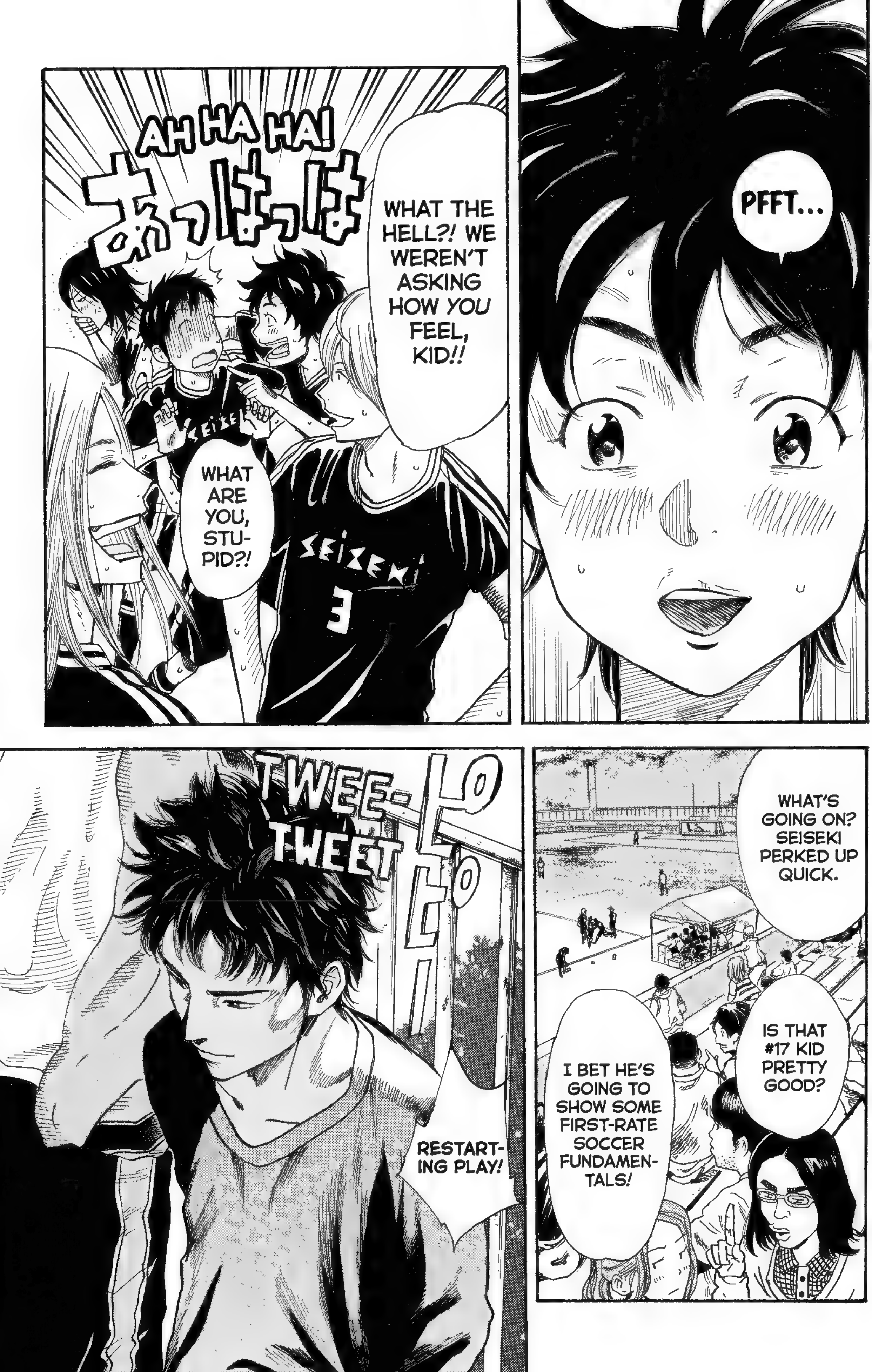

HEY.
HEY! TSUKAMOTO!
Y-YES?! WHAT IS IT?!
GET OFF THE BENCH.
HUH?! OH! I'M SORRY I MADE SUCH A FUSS!!
I'LL...I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!!
NO.
GET ON THE FIELD.
I'M PUTTING YOU IN. GET READY.
MURMUR
...
HUH?
WHAT?
LIKE, AS A MANAGER OR SOMETHING?

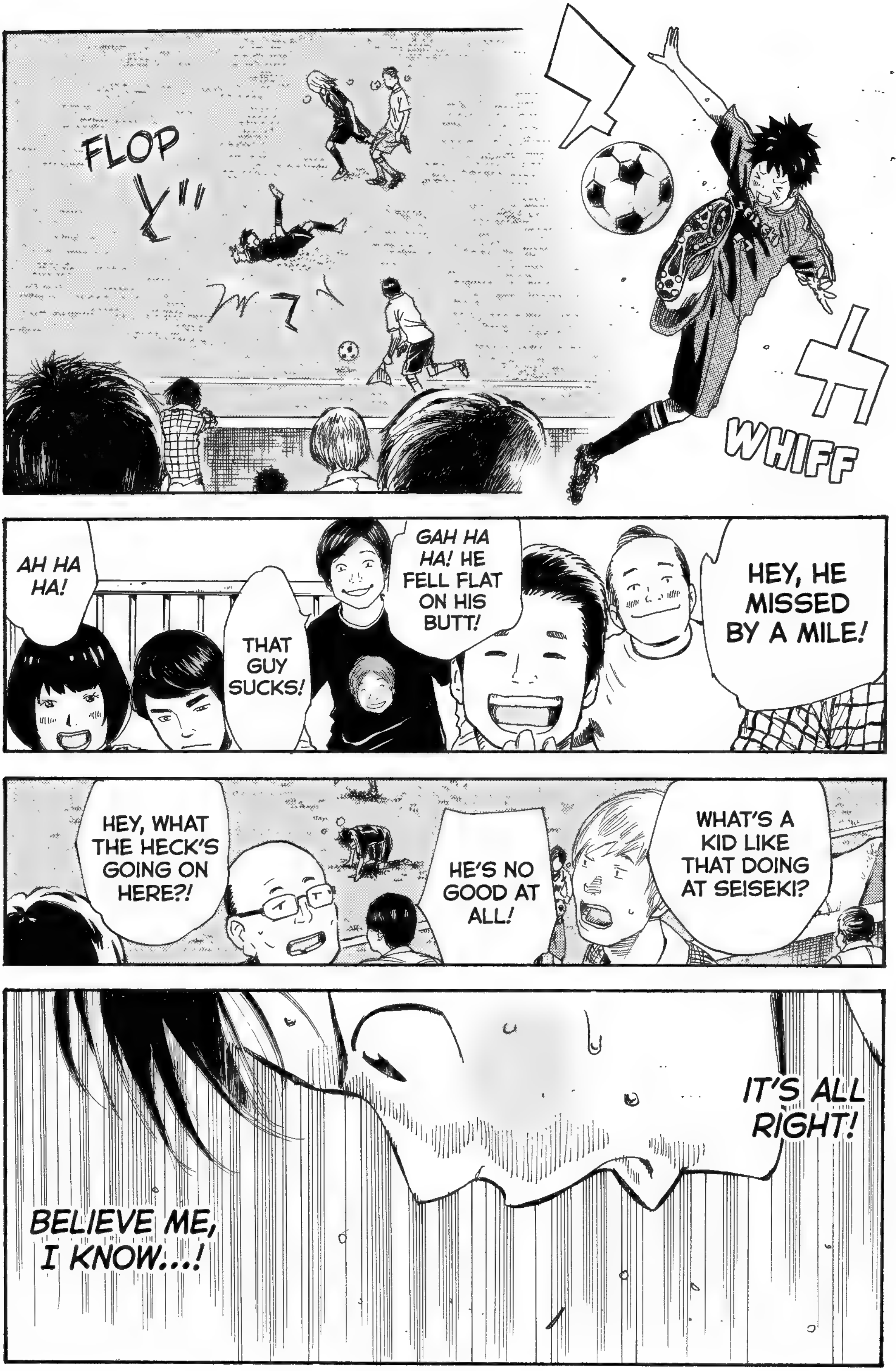

WE'RE MAKING A SUBSTITUTION!
FOR REAL?
ドッ
BA-BUMP
キン
ドッ
BA-BUMP
キン
ドッ
BA-BUMP
キン
ドッ
BA-BUMP
キン
IT'S...SO BIG...
SOMEHOW THE FIELD FEELS BIGGER THAN USUAL...
#11, OUT.
#17, IN.
TH...
THIS REALLY MIGHT NOT WORK OUT, AFTER ALL...
OH...
OSHIBA-SEMPAI!
スー
GLOWER
G-
GOOD WORK!

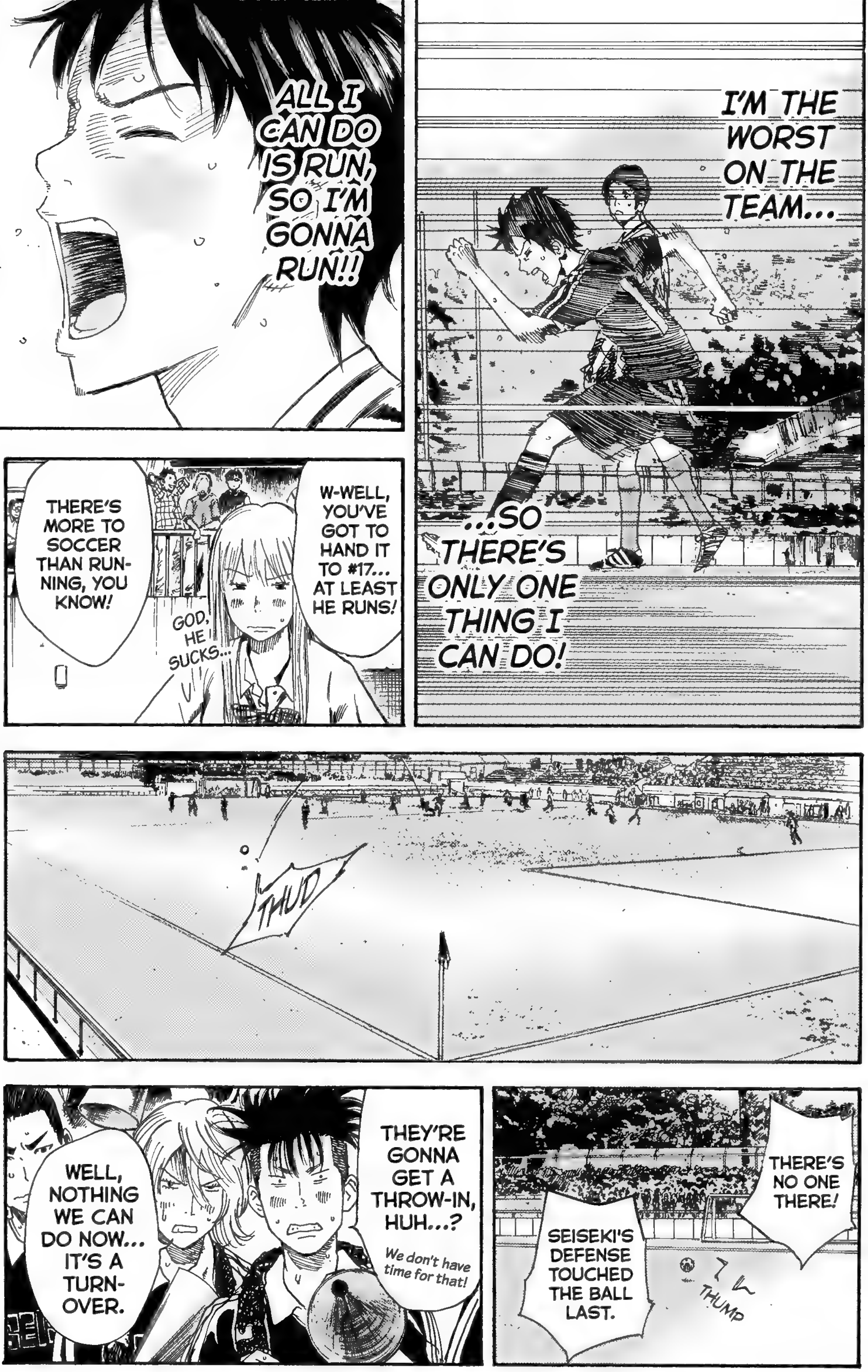

I'M YOUR SUB—
BONK
OWW!!
UGH...
OWOWW...
H-HEY, YOU!!
WHAT?
UMM, NOTHING...
TSUKAMOTO...
...IT'S UP TO YOU.
MAN, HE'S GOT A HARD HEAD...
R...
RIGHT!!
TSUKUSHI!
NERVOUS?
KAZAMA-KUN!

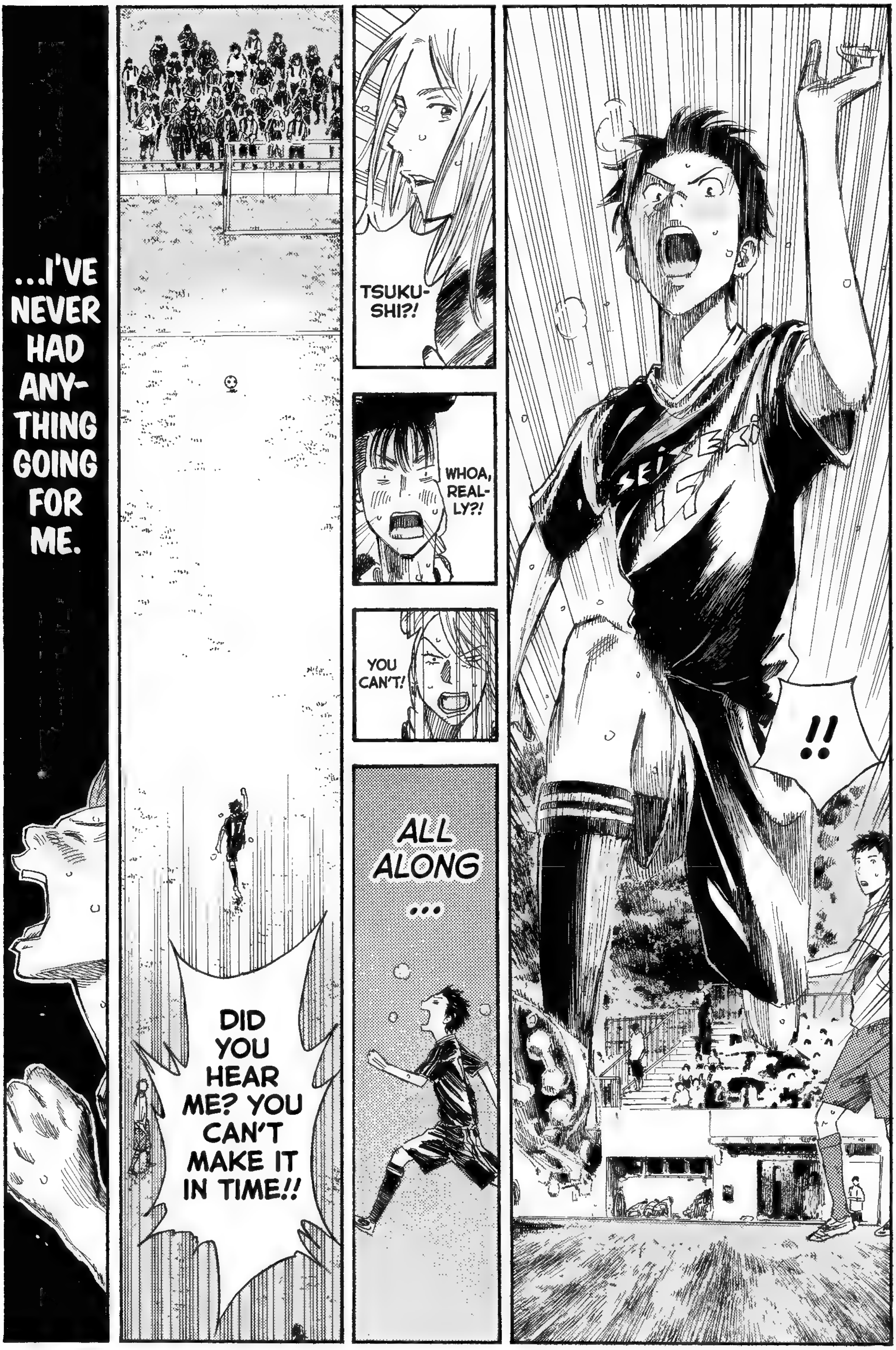

NO...
NOT AT ALL.
YOU LIAR. YOU'RE TEARING UP!
I'M—I'M FINE!
ぐりぐり
NOOGIE, NOOGIE
OHSHIBA-SEMPAI SMACKED A LITTLE FIGHTING SPIRIT INTO ME!!
NOW, LISTEN, TSUKUSHI...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU SUCK.
JUST RUN AS HARD AS I CAN, AND I'LL WIN THEM OVER!
OH... YOU REMEMBERED THAT, HUH?
HAH
HEE-HEE! えへへ
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT AS LONG AS I LIVE!
ばしゃあ FSHH
YOU TWO SURE GET ALONG...

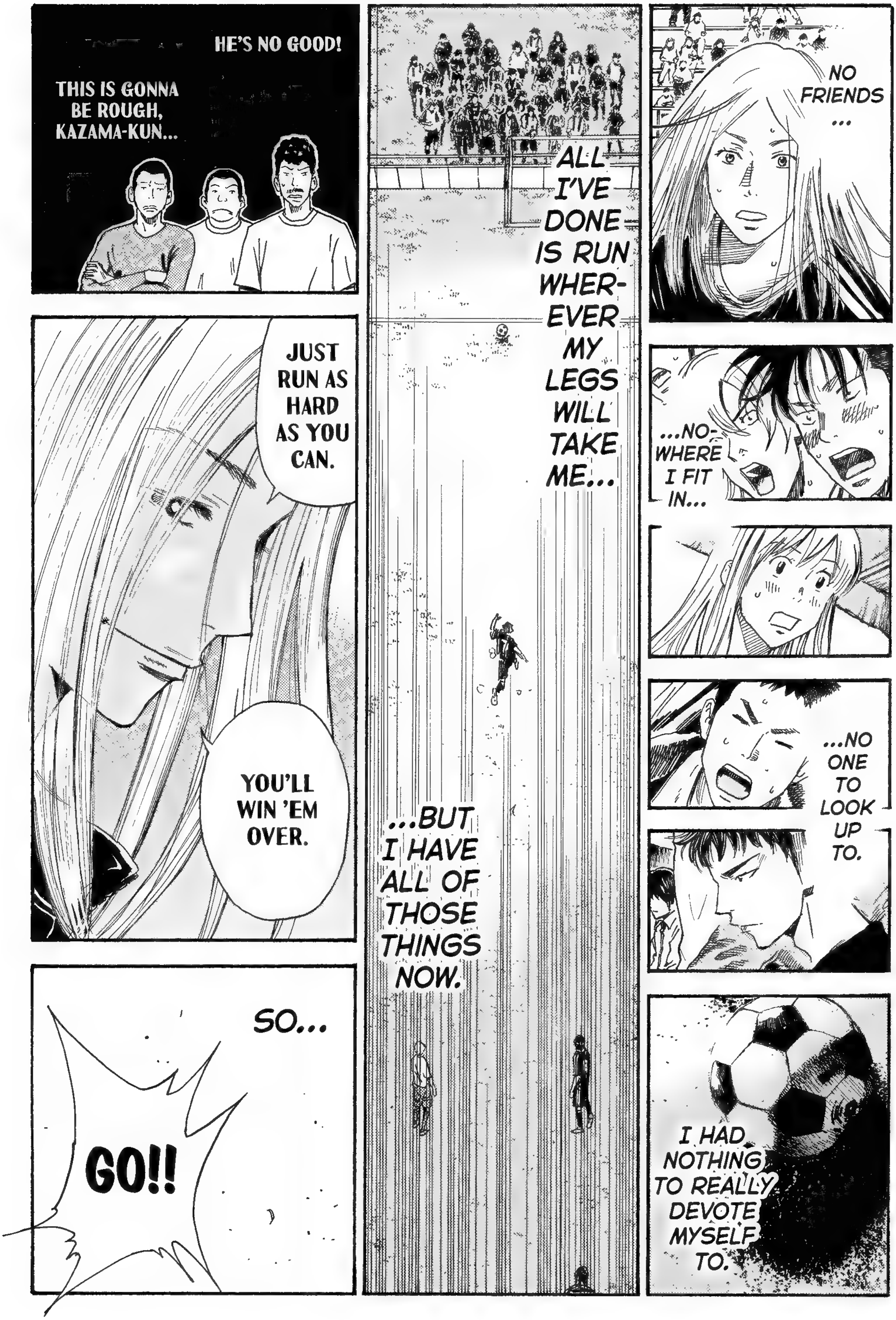

WELL, TSUKUSHI? WHAT DID THE COACH TELL YOU?
DID HE SAY TO TAKE SHIBA'S PLACE AS CENTER FORWARD?
HUFF
HUFF
HUH?
UMM ...
WELL, UHH...
ON.. ON THE FIELD?
BLAH BLAH
I...
I JUST REALLY WANT...
...TO WIN THIS THING.

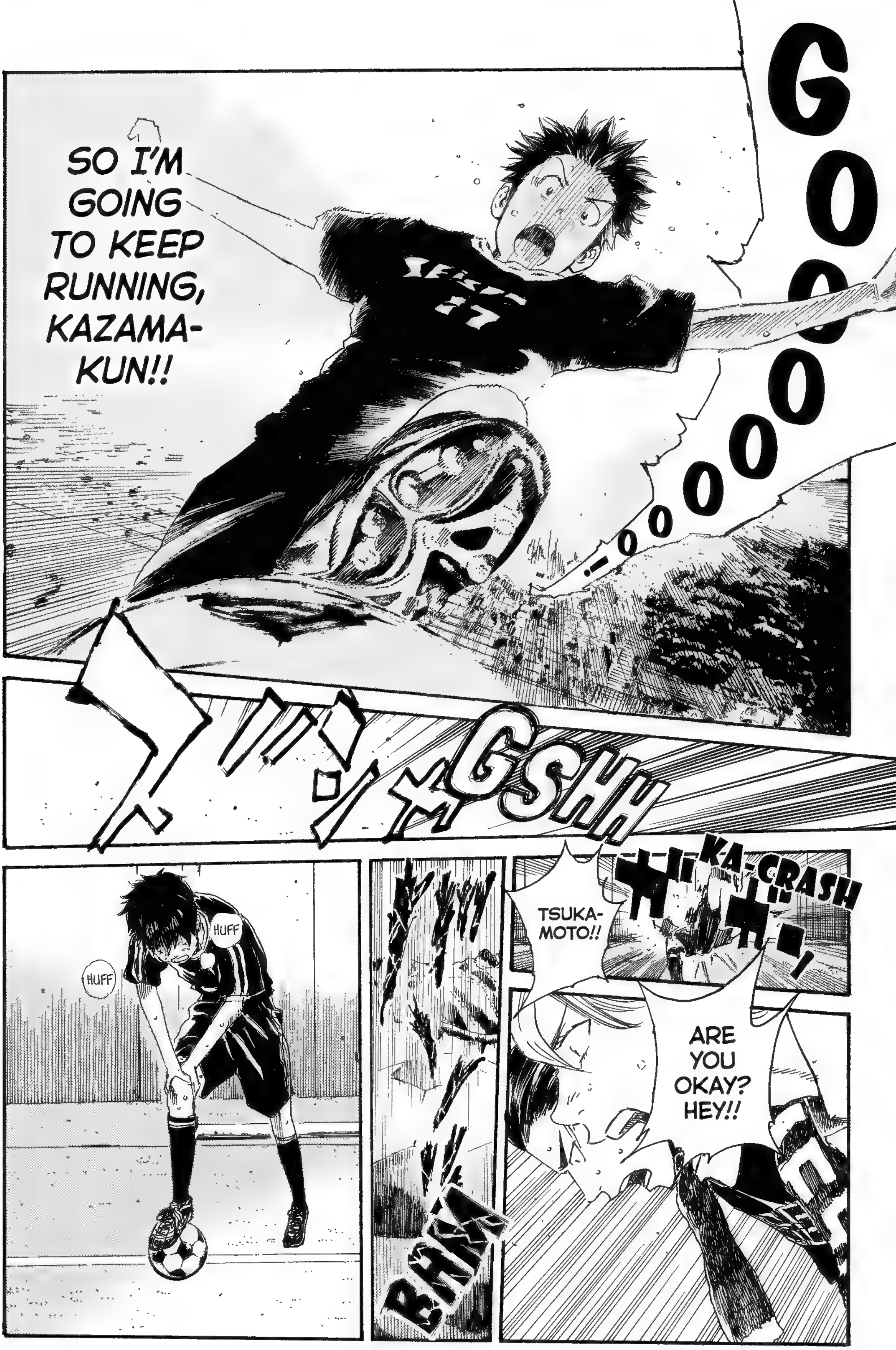

PFFT...
WHAT THE HELL?! WE WEREN'T ASKING HOW *YOU* FEEL, KID!!
AH HA HA!
あっはっは
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!
SEISEKI
3
WHAT'S GOING ON? SEISEKI PERKED UP QUICK.
IS THAT #17 KID PRETTY GOOD?
I BET HE'S GOING TO SHOW SOME FIRST-RATE SOCCER FUNDAMENTALS!
TWEE-TWEET
ピッ ピー
RESTARTING PLAY!

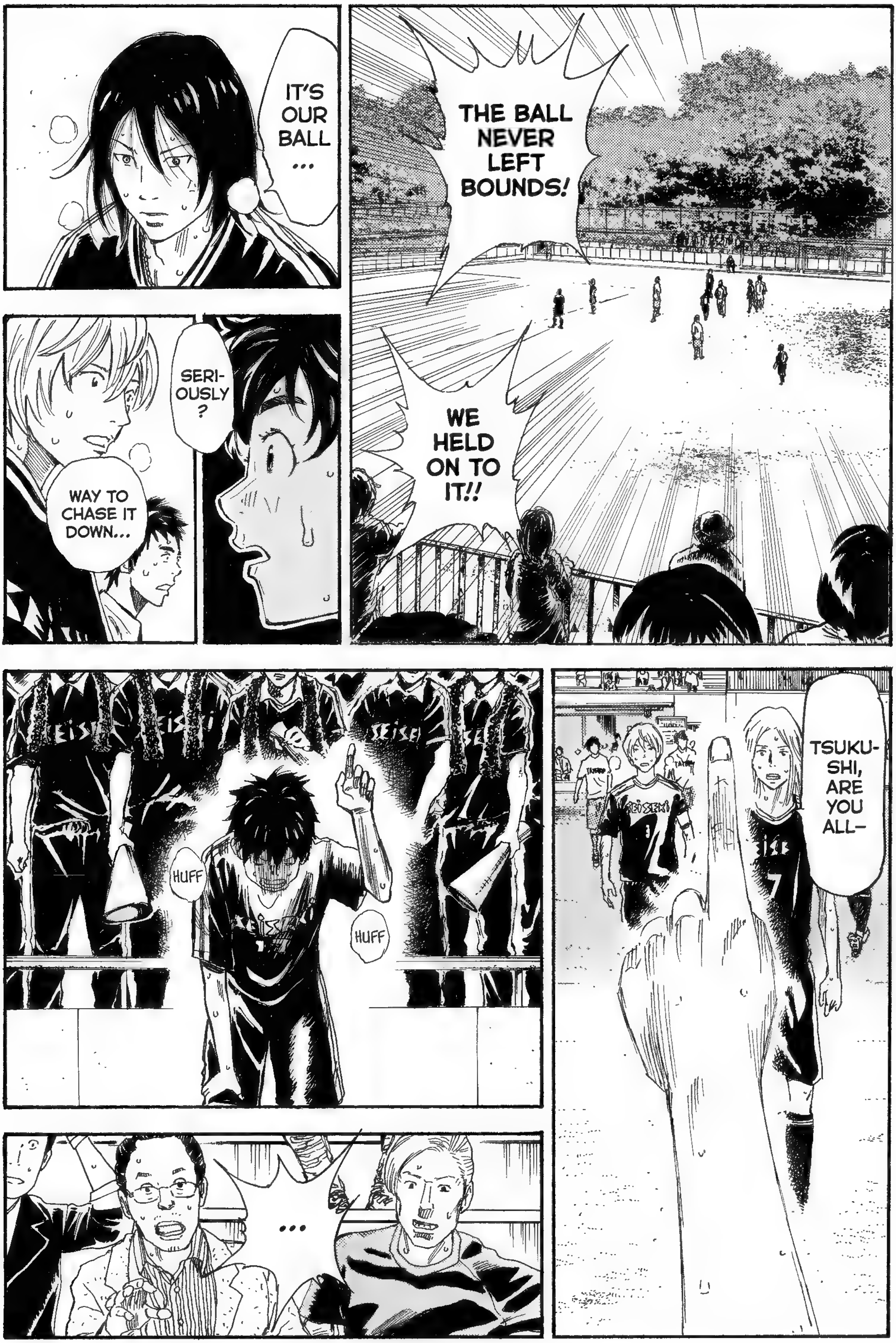

WHIFF
FLOP
HEY, HE MISSED BY A MILE!
GAH HA HA! HE FELL FLAT ON HIS BUTT!
THAT GUY SUCKS!
AH HA HA!
WHAT'S A KID LIKE THAT DOING AT SEISEKI?
HE'S NO GOOD AT ALL!
HEY, WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW...!

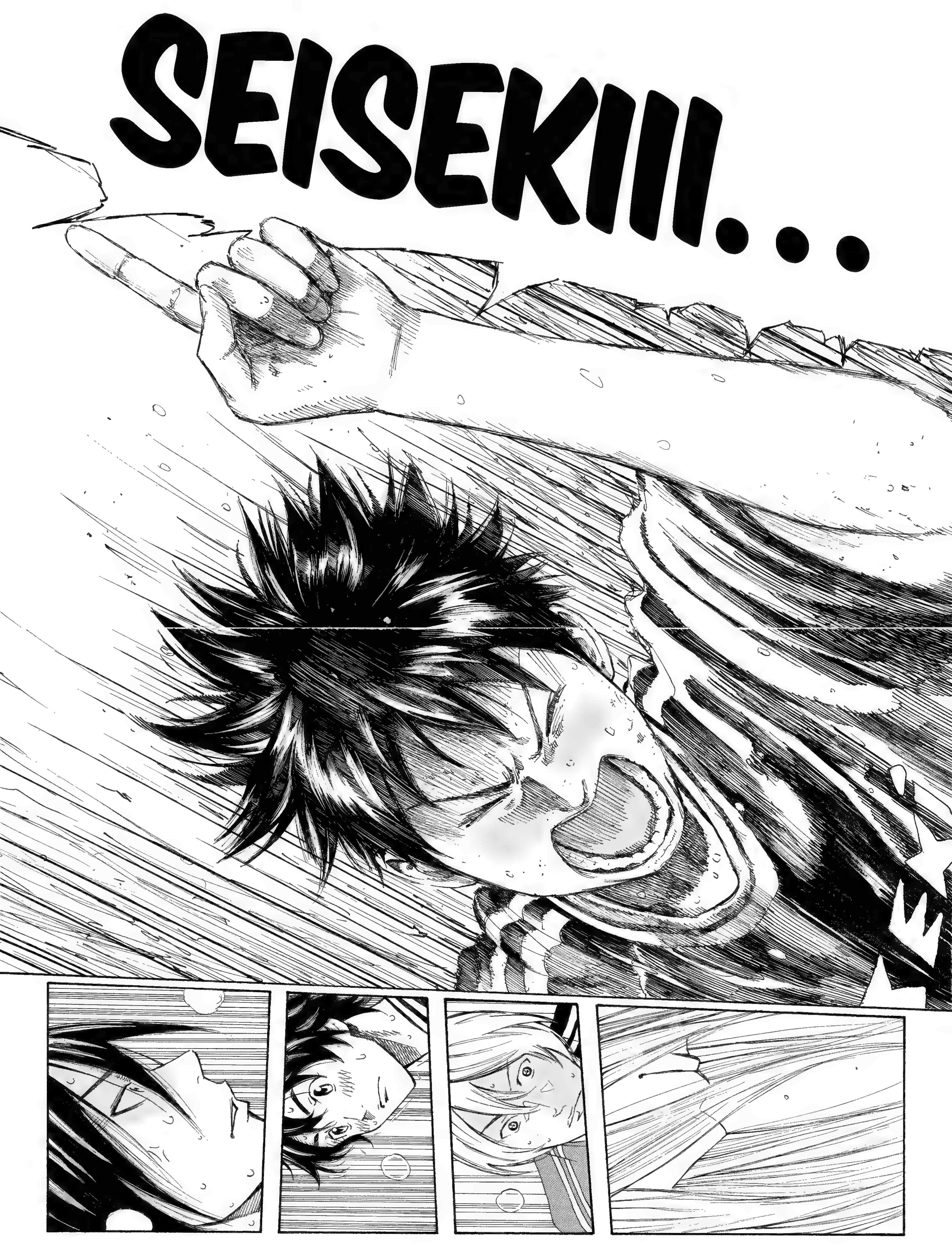

I'M THE WORST ON THE TEAM...
...SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO!
ALL I CAN DO IS RUN, SO I'M GONNA RUN!!
W-WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO #17... AT LEAST HE RUNS!
GOD, HE SUCKS...
THERE'S MORE TO SOCCER THAN RUNNING, YOU KNOW!
THUD
THERE'S NO ONE THERE!
SEISEKI'S DEFENSE TOUCHED THE BALL LAST.
THUMP
THEY'RE GONNA GET A THROW-IN, HUH...?
We don't have time for that!
WELL, NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW... IT'S A TURNOVER.

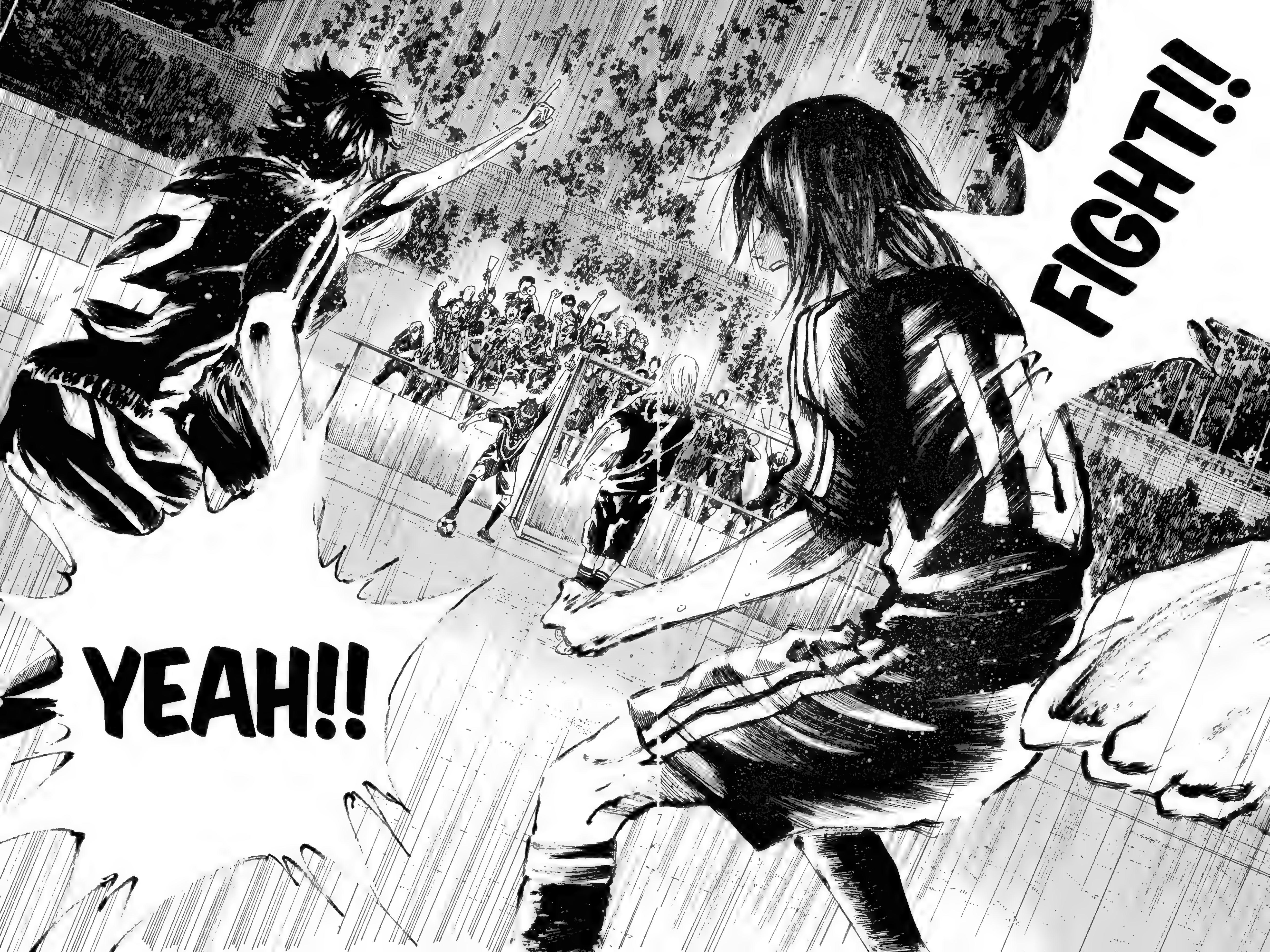

!!
TSUKU-SHI?!
WHOA, REAL-LY?!
YOU CAN'T!
ALL ALONG ...
DID YOU HEAR ME? YOU CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME!!
...I'VE NEVER HAD ANY-THING GOING FOR ME.

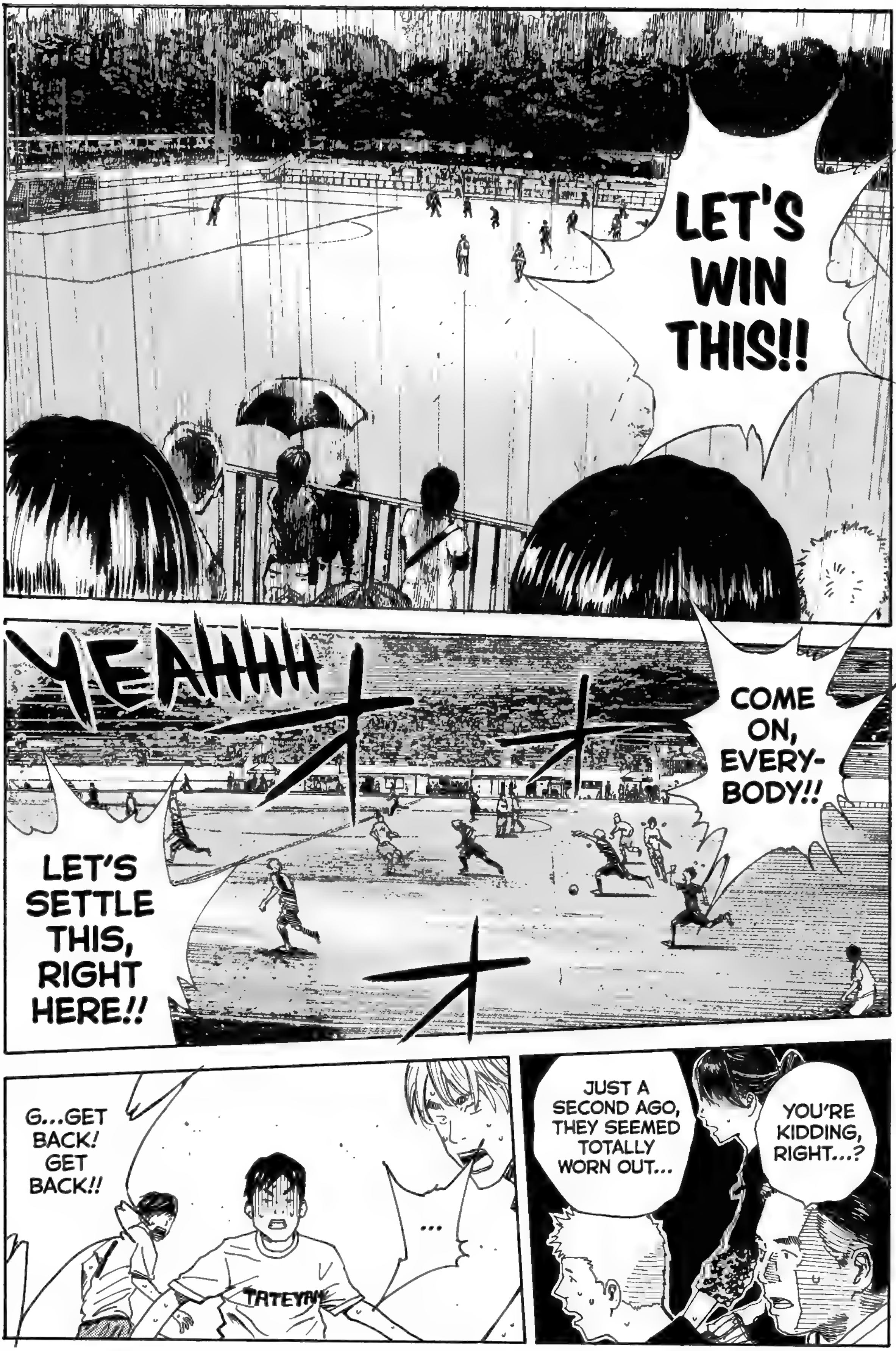

HE'S NO GOOD!
THIS IS GONNA BE ROUGH, KAZAMA-KUN...
JUST RUN AS HARD AS YOU CAN.
YOU'LL WIN 'EM OVER.
SO...
GO!!
NO FRIENDS...
...NOWHERE I FIT IN...
...NO ONE TO LOOK UP TO.
I HAD NOTHING TO REALLY DEVOTE MYSELF TO.
ALL I'VE DONE IS RUN WHEREVER MY LEGS WILL TAKE ME...
...BUT I HAVE ALL OF THOSE THINGS NOW.

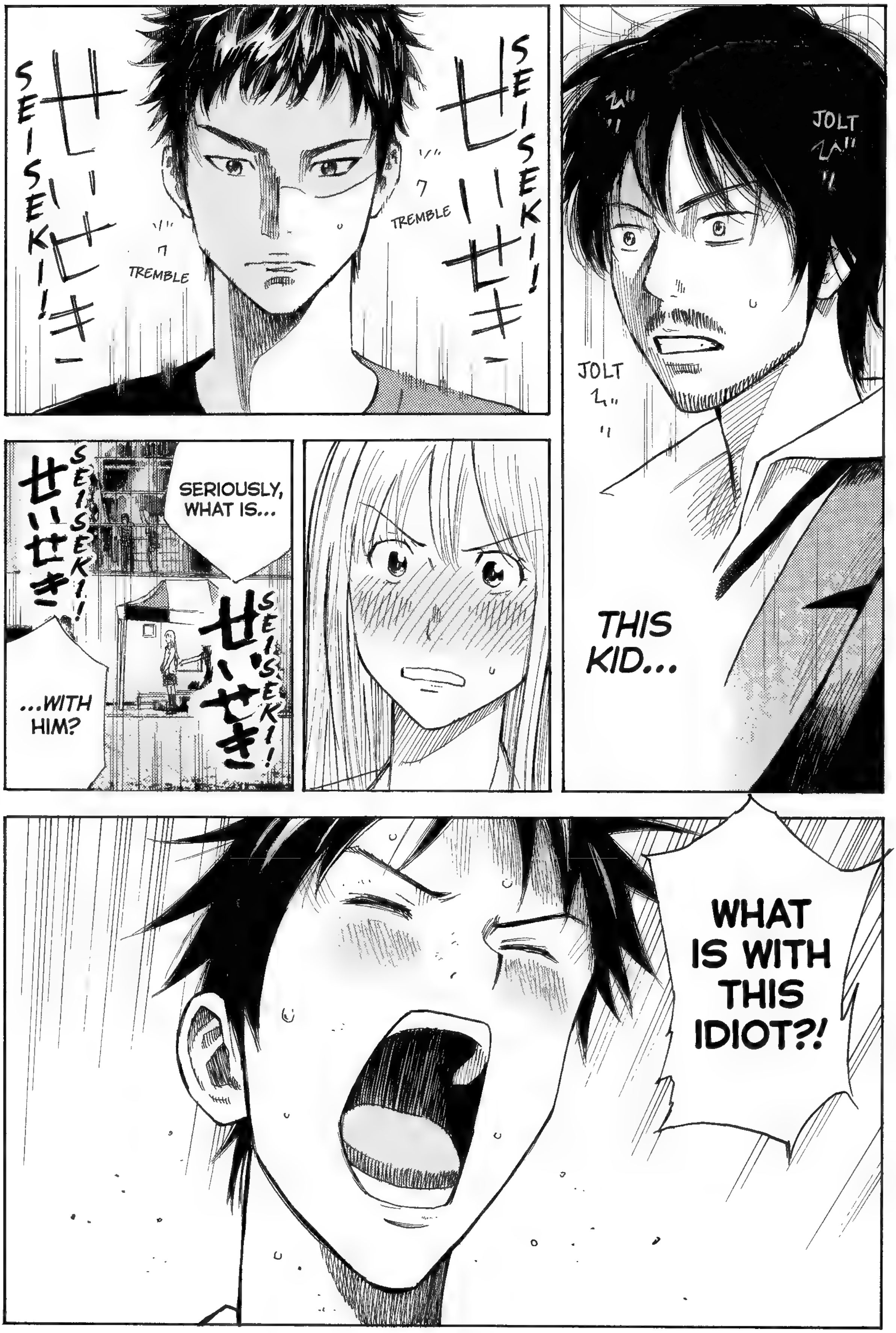

SO I'M GOING TO KEEP RUNNING, KAZAMA-KUN!!
GOOOOOOOO...
GSHH
KA-CRASH
TSUKAMOTO!!
ARE YOU OKAY? HEY!!
BHM
HUFF
HUFF

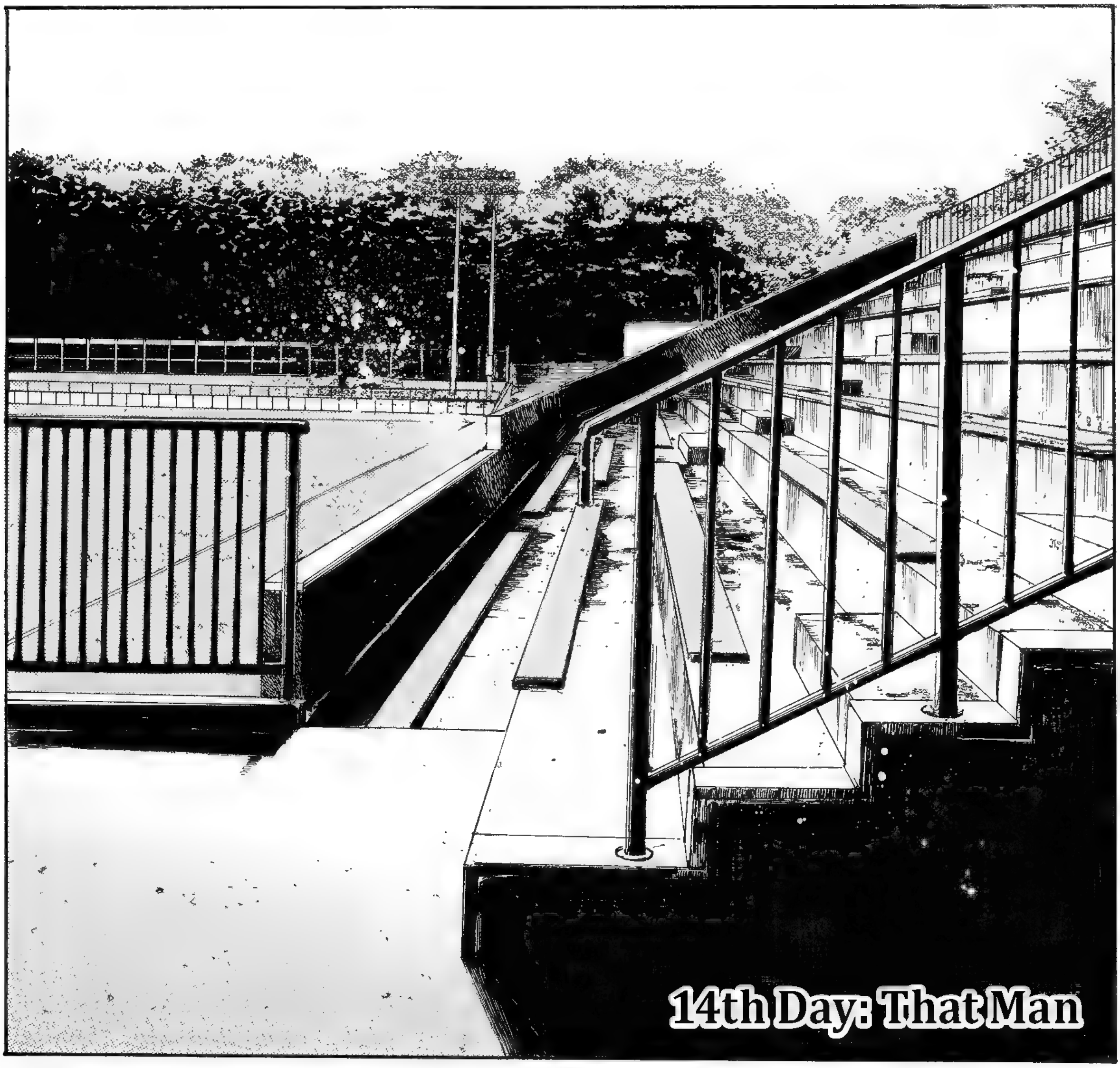

THE BALL NEVER LEFT BOUNDS!
WE HELD ON TO IT!!
IT'S OUR BALL...
SERIOUSLY?
WAY TO CHASE IT DOWN...
TSUKUSHI, ARE YOU ALL–
HUFF
HUFF
...


SEISEKIII...

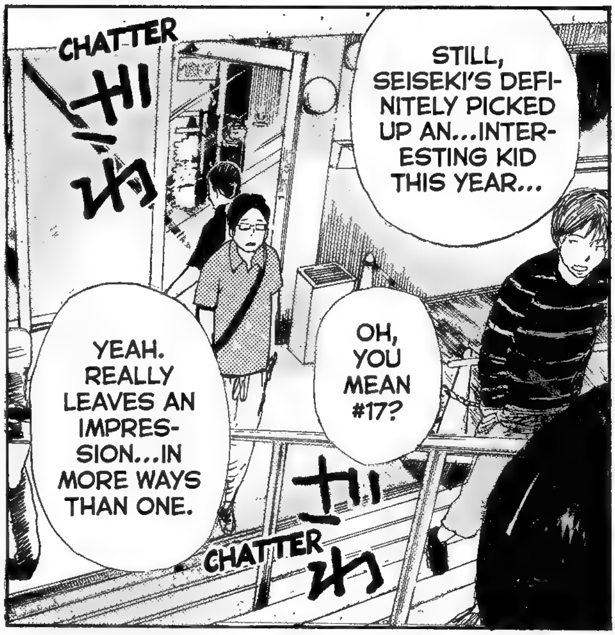

FIGHT!!
YEAH!!

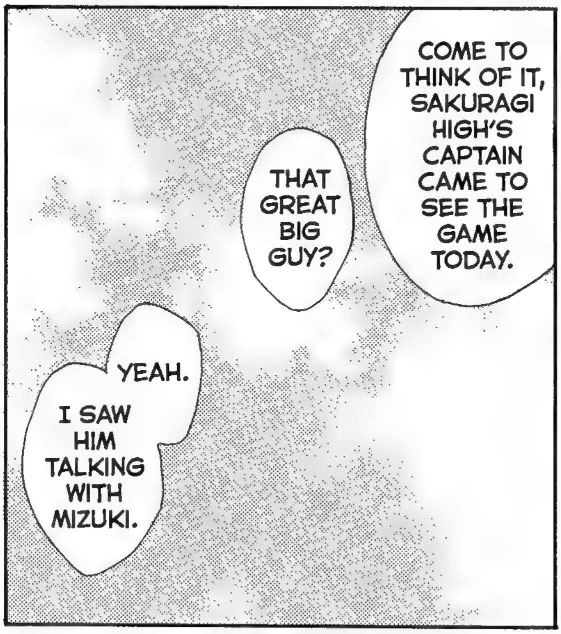

LET'S WIN THIS!!
COME ON, EVERYBODY!!
YEAHHH
LET'S SETTLE THIS, RIGHT HERE!!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT...?
JUST A SECOND AGO, THEY SEEMED TOTALLY WORN OUT...
...
G...GET BACK! GET BACK!!
TATEYAM

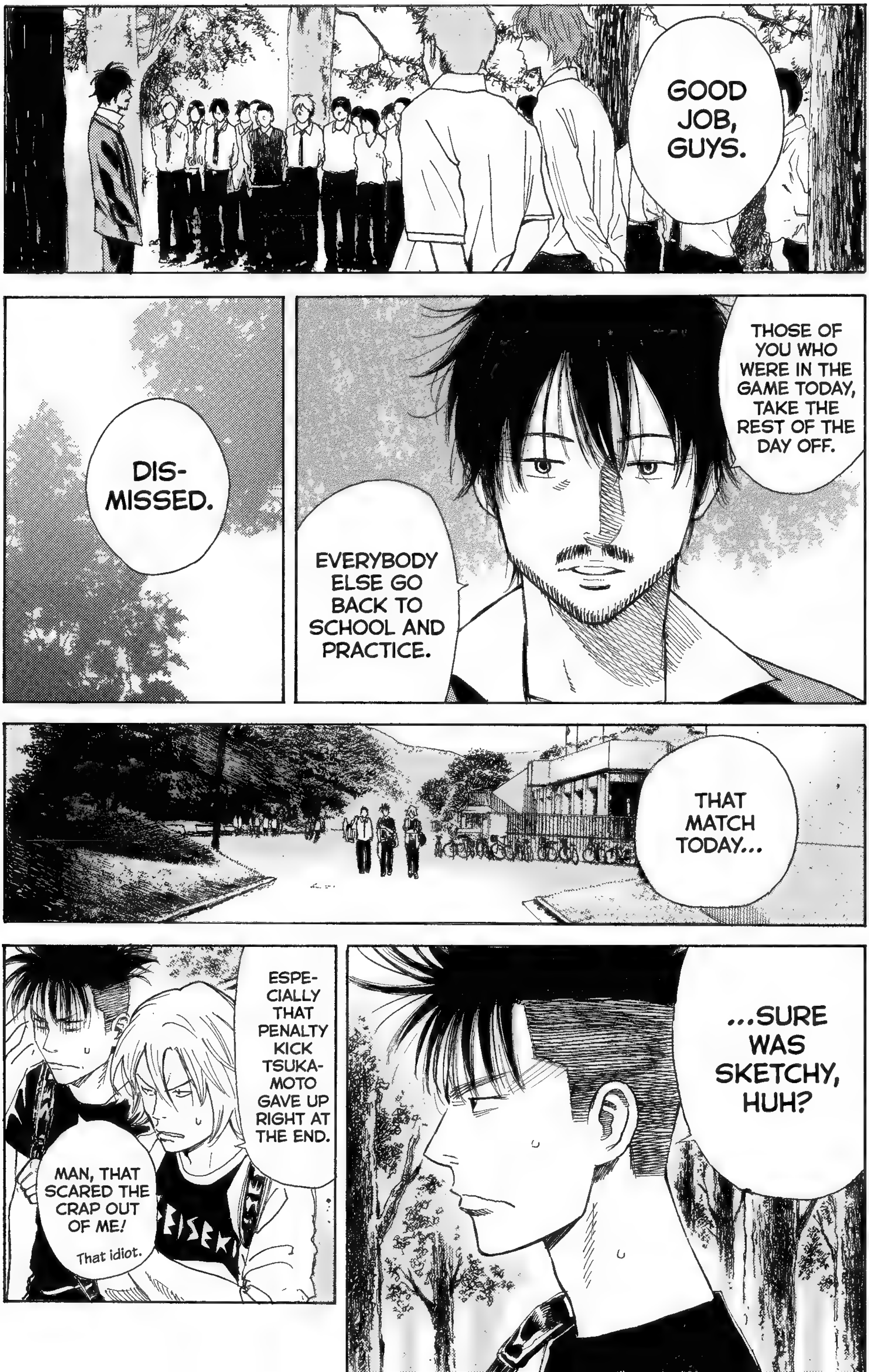

JOLT
JOLT
THIS KID...
SEISEKI!
せーせきー
TREMBLE
せーせきー
SEISEKI!
TREMBLE
SEISEKI!
せいせき
SEISEKI!
せいせき
SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS...
...WITH HIM?
WHAT IS WITH THIS IDIOT?!

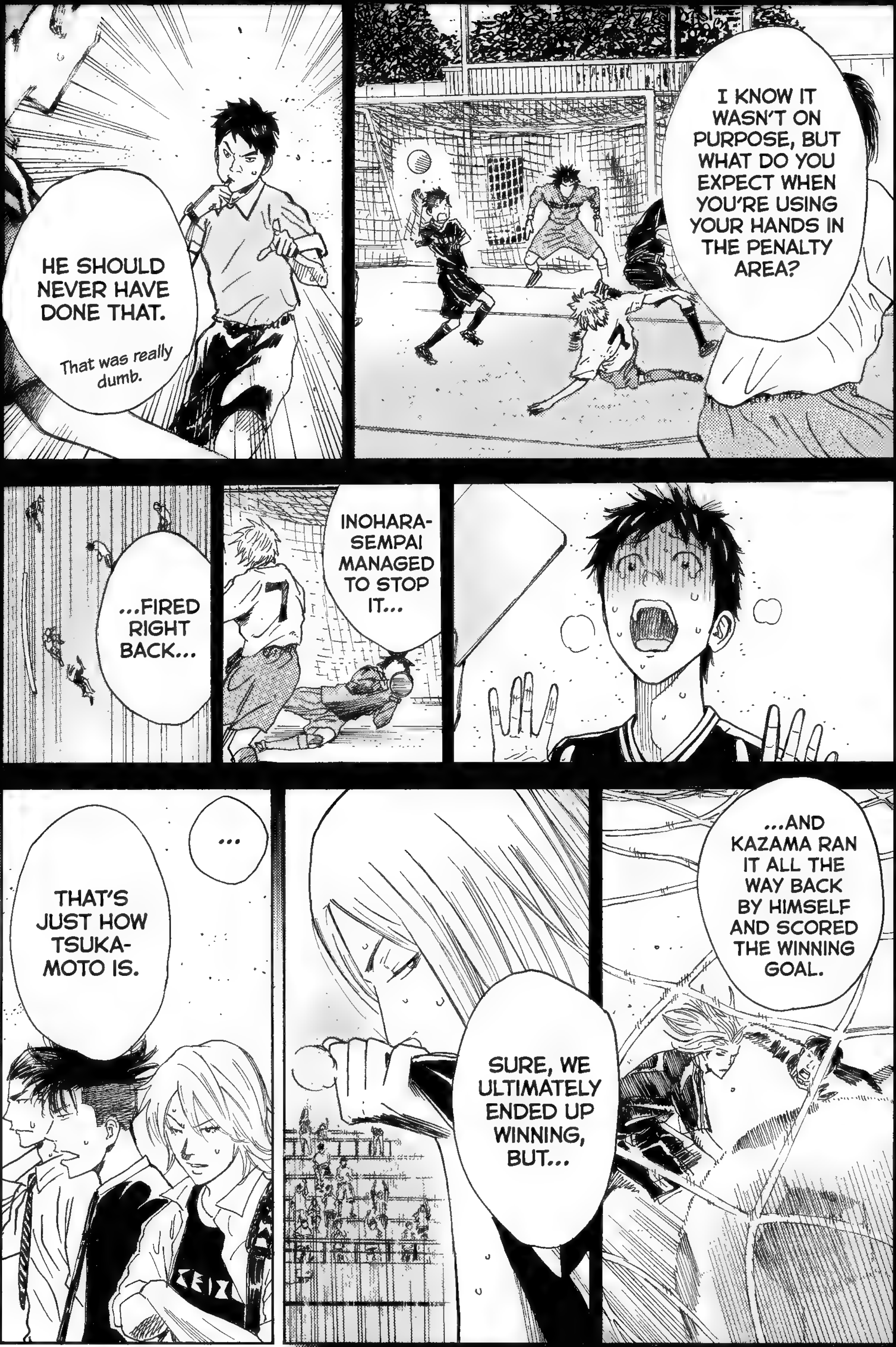


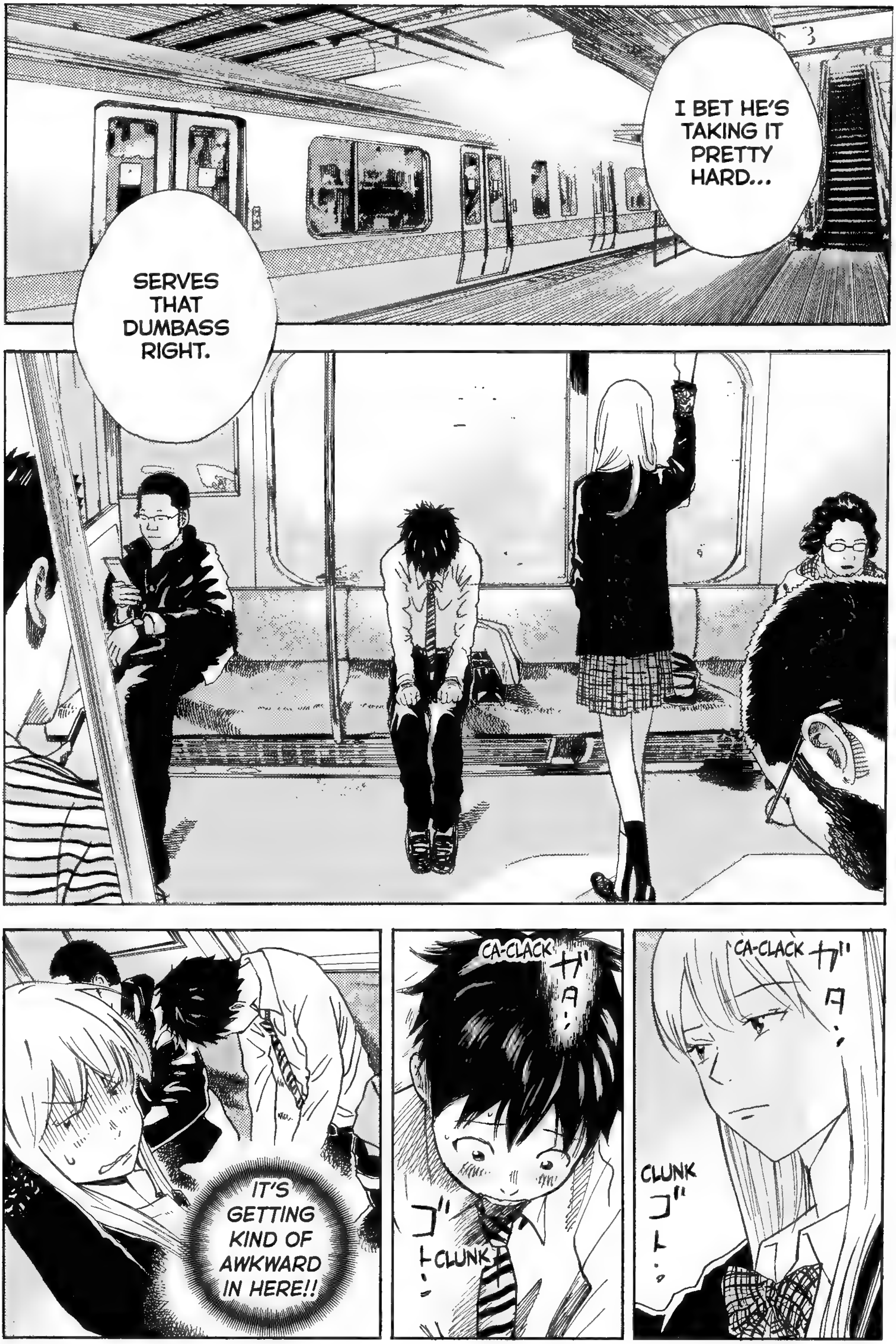
14th Day: That Man

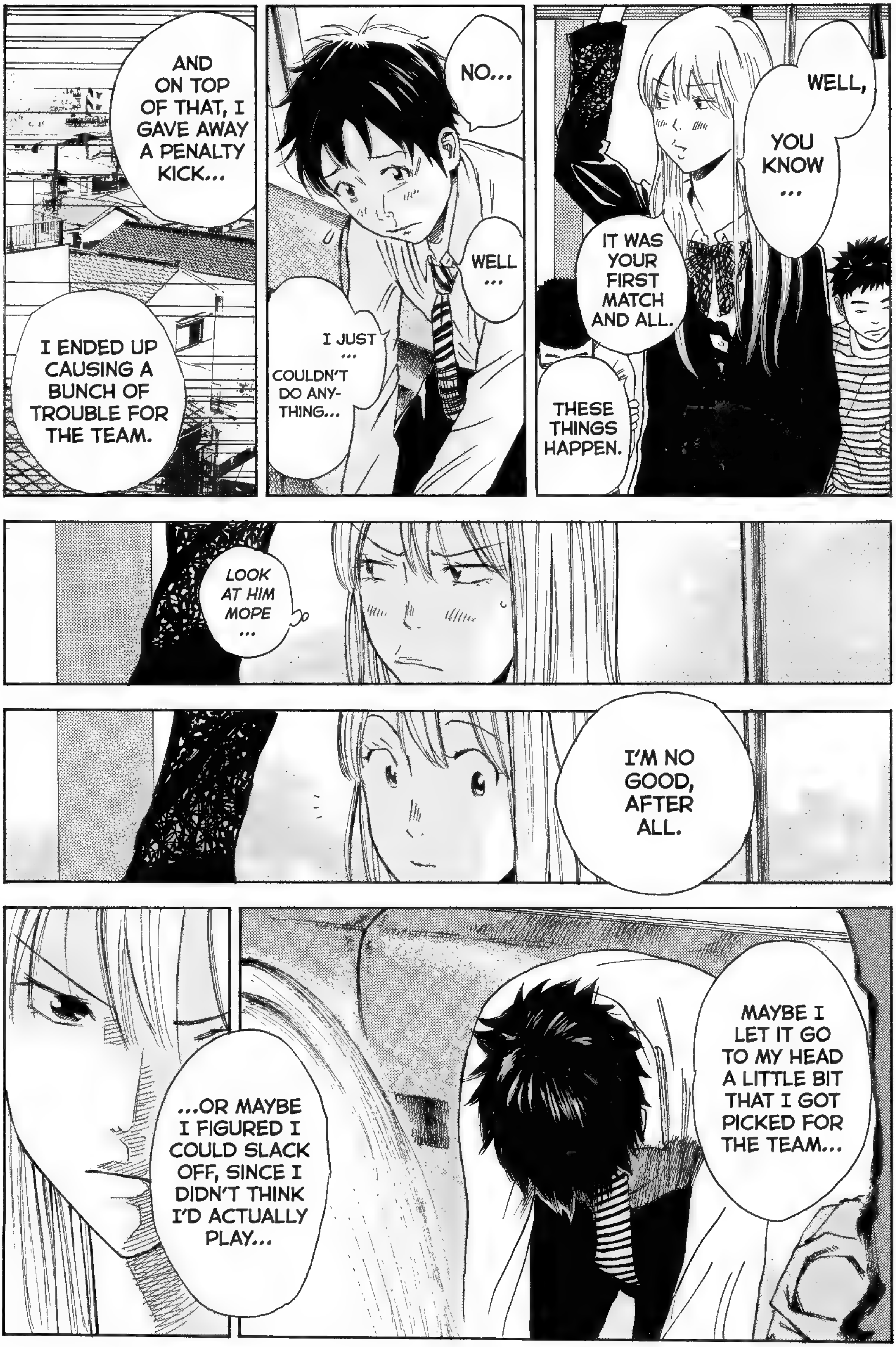

CHATTER
STILL, SEISEKI'S DEFINITELY PICKED UP AN...INTERESTING KID THIS YEAR...
OH, YOU MEAN #17?
YEAH. REALLY LEAVES AN IMPRESSION...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
CHATTER

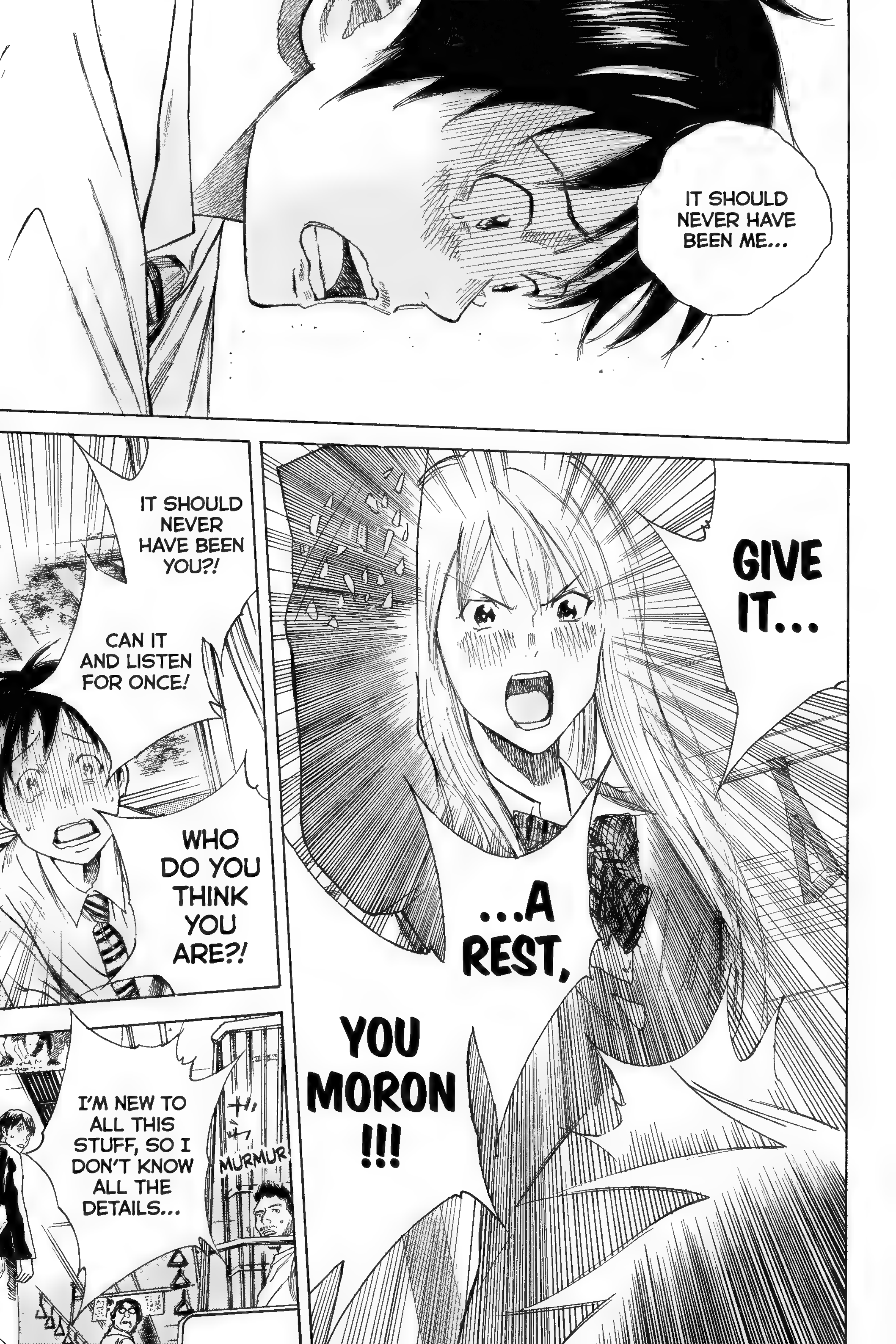

COME TO THINK OF IT, SAKURAGI HIGH'S CAPTAIN CAME TO SEE THE GAME TODAY.
THAT GREAT BIG GUY?
YEAH. I SAW HIM TALKING WITH MIZUKI.

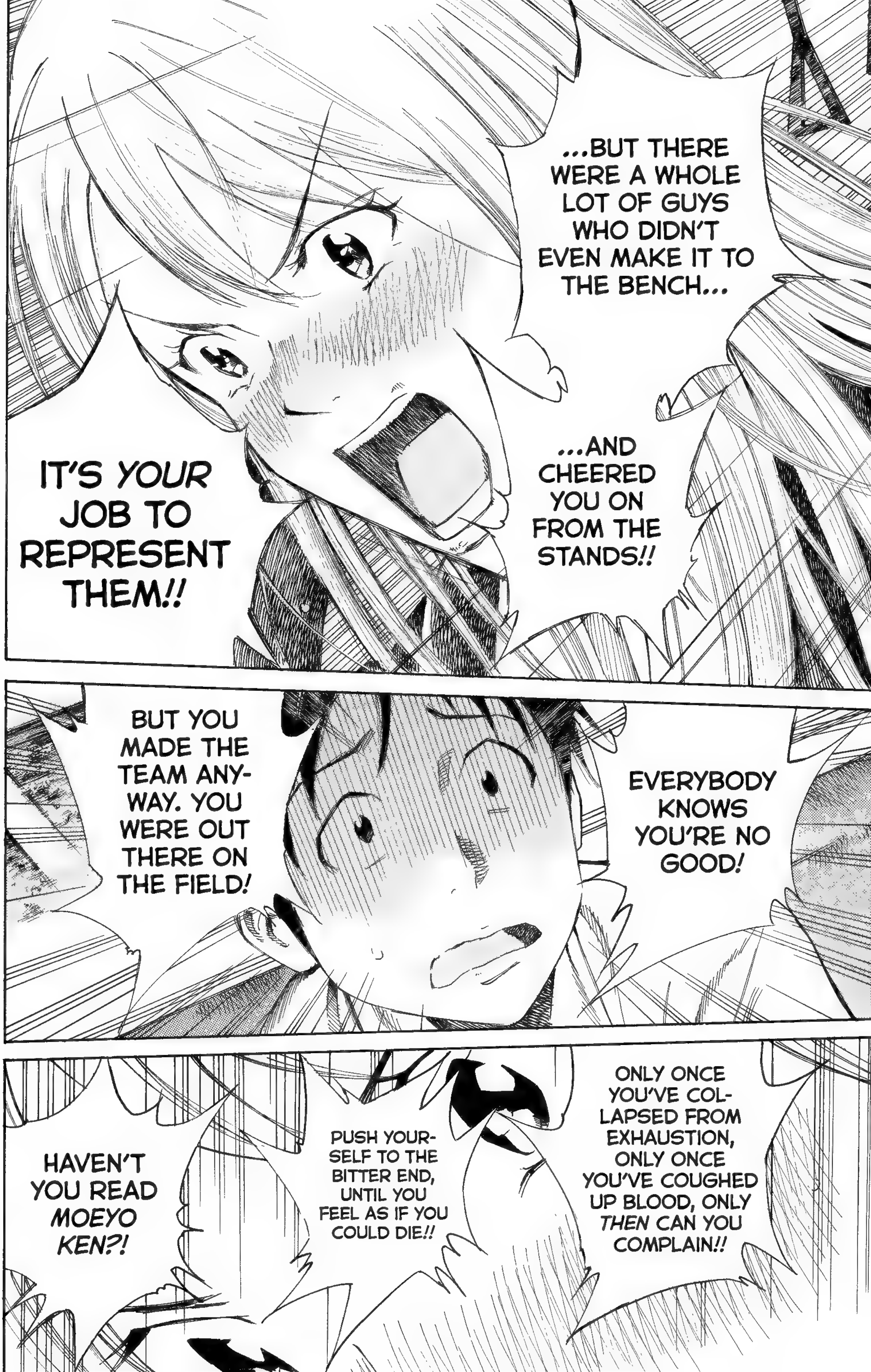

GOOD JOB, GUYS.
THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE IN THE GAME TODAY, TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF.
EVERYBODY ELSE GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND PRACTICE.
DISMISSED.
THAT MATCH TODAY...
...SURE WAS SKETCHY, HUH?
ESPECIALLY THAT PENALTY KICK TSUKAMOTO GAVE UP RIGHT AT THE END.
MAN, THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!
That idiot.

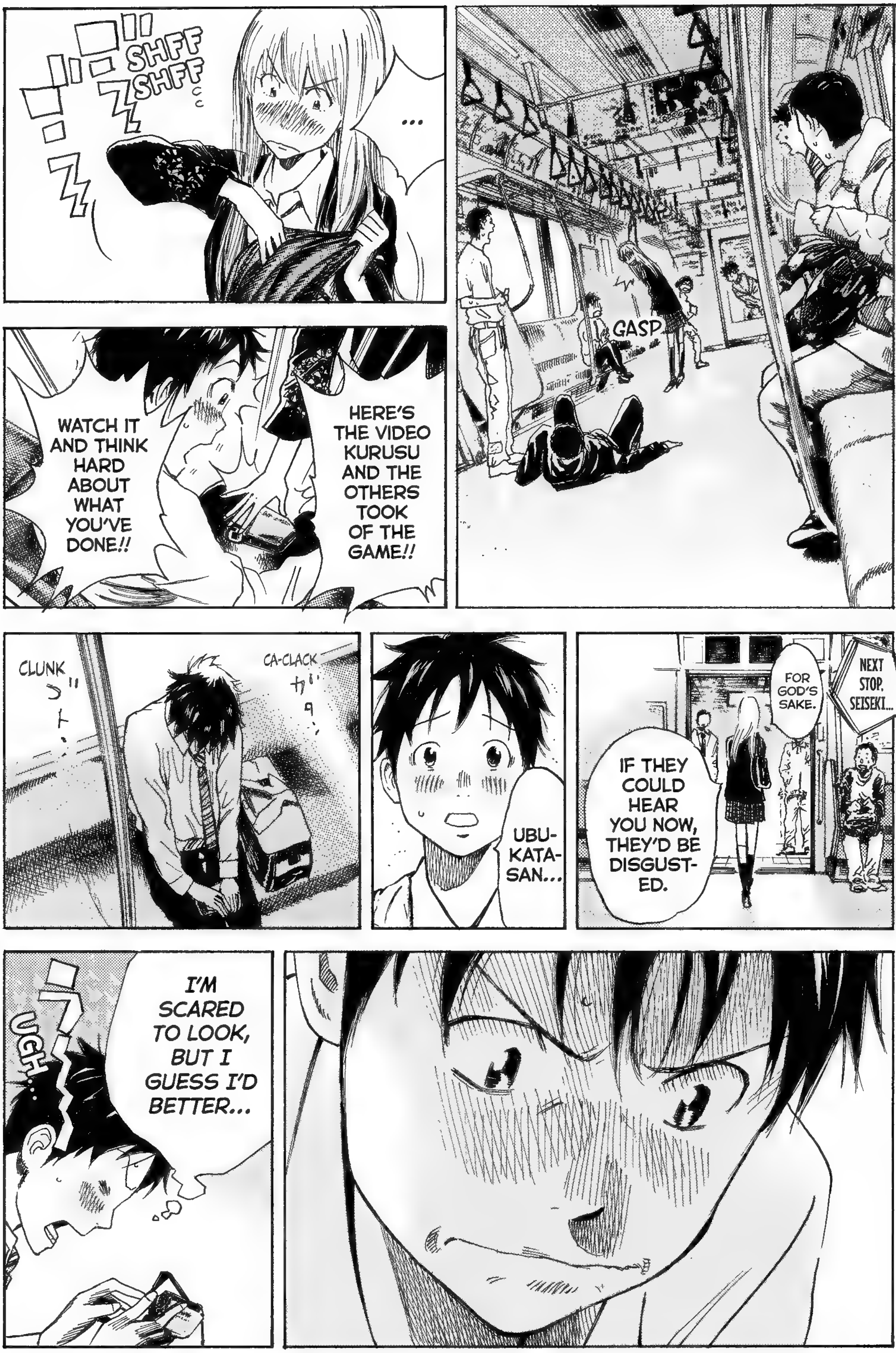

I KNOW IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE, BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE USING YOUR HANDS IN THE PENALTY AREA?
HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE DONE THAT.
That was really dumb.
INOHARA-SEMPAI MANAGED TO STOP IT...
...FIRED RIGHT BACK...
...AND KAZAMA RAN IT ALL THE WAY BACK BY HIMSELF AND SCORED THE WINNING GOAL.
SURE, WE ULTIMATELY ENDED UP WINNING, BUT...
...
THAT'S JUST HOW TSUKAMOTO IS.

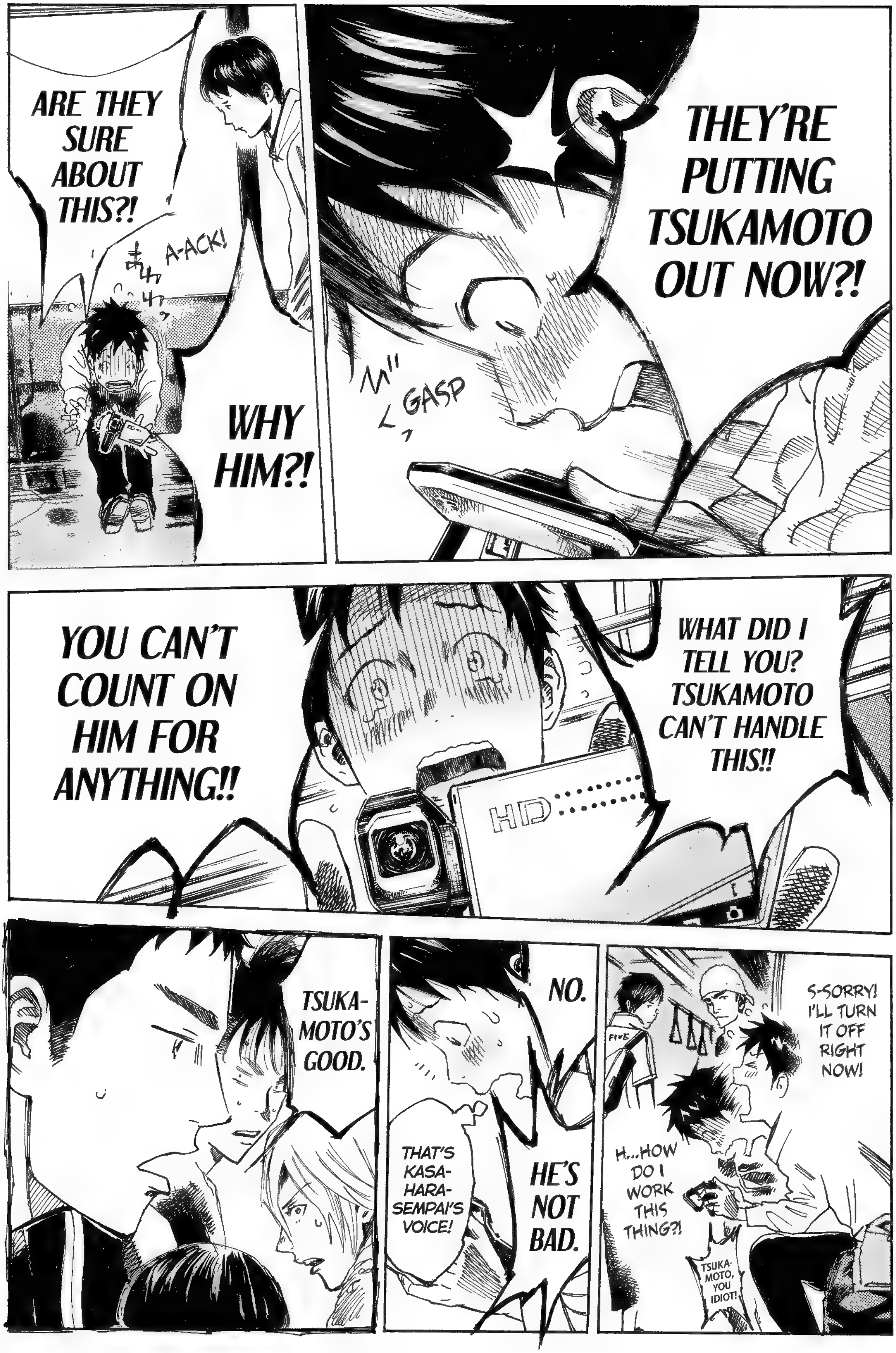

I BET HE'S TAKING IT PRETTY HARD...
SERVES THAT DUMBASS RIGHT.
CA-CLACK ガタッ
CLUNK ゴトッ
CA-CLACK ガタッ
ゴトッ CLUNK
IT'S GETTING KIND OF AWKWARD IN HERE!!

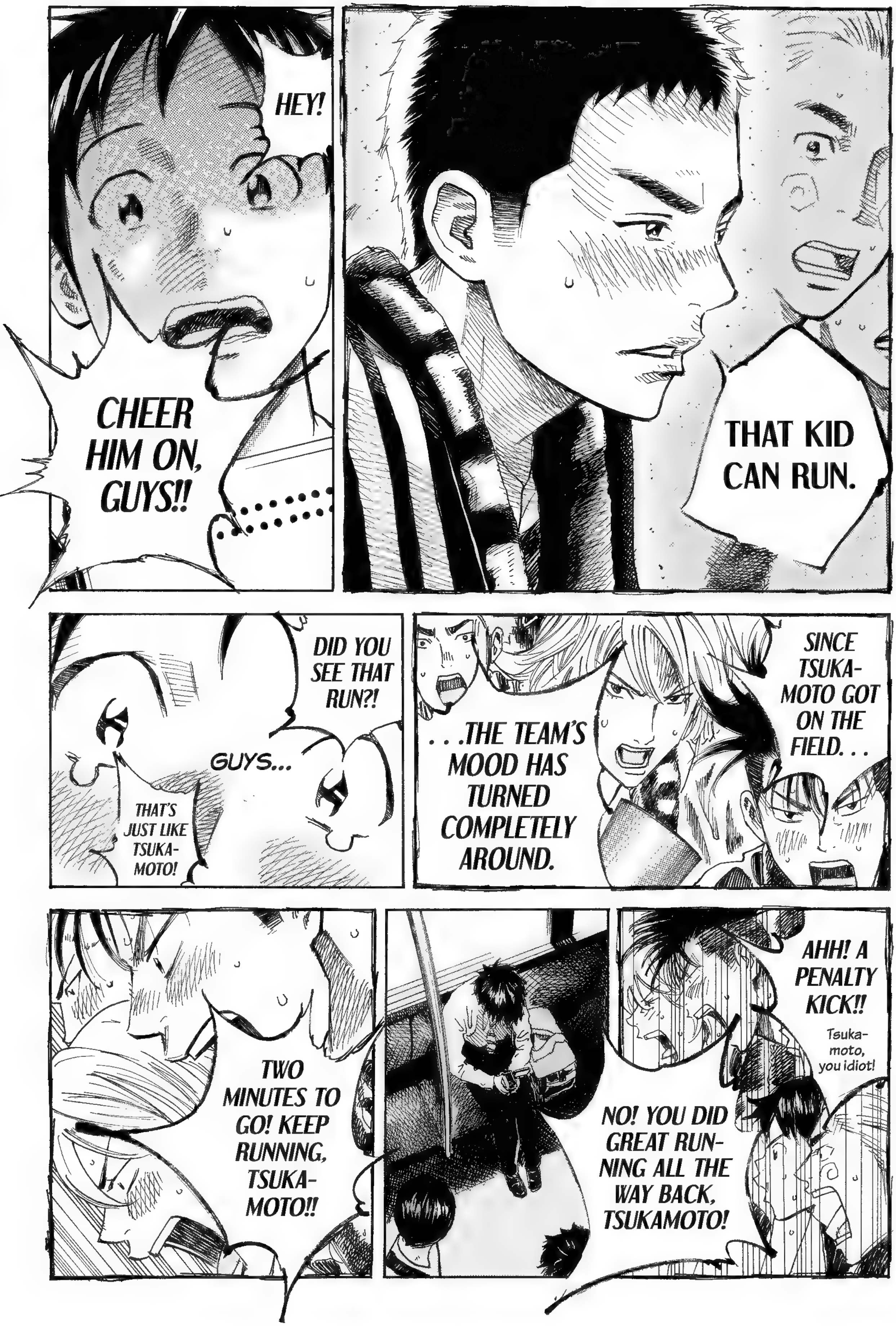

WELL, YOU KNOW ...
IT WAS YOUR FIRST MATCH AND ALL.
THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
NO...
WELL ...
I JUST ... COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I GAVE AWAY A PENALTY KICK...
I ENDED UP CAUSING A BUNCH OF TROUBLE FOR THE TEAM.
LOOK AT HIM MOPE ...
I'M NO GOOD, AFTER ALL.
MAYBE I LET IT GO TO MY HEAD A LITTLE BIT THAT I GOT PICKED FOR THE TEAM...
...OR MAYBE I FIGURED I COULD SLACK OFF, SINCE I DIDN'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY PLAY...

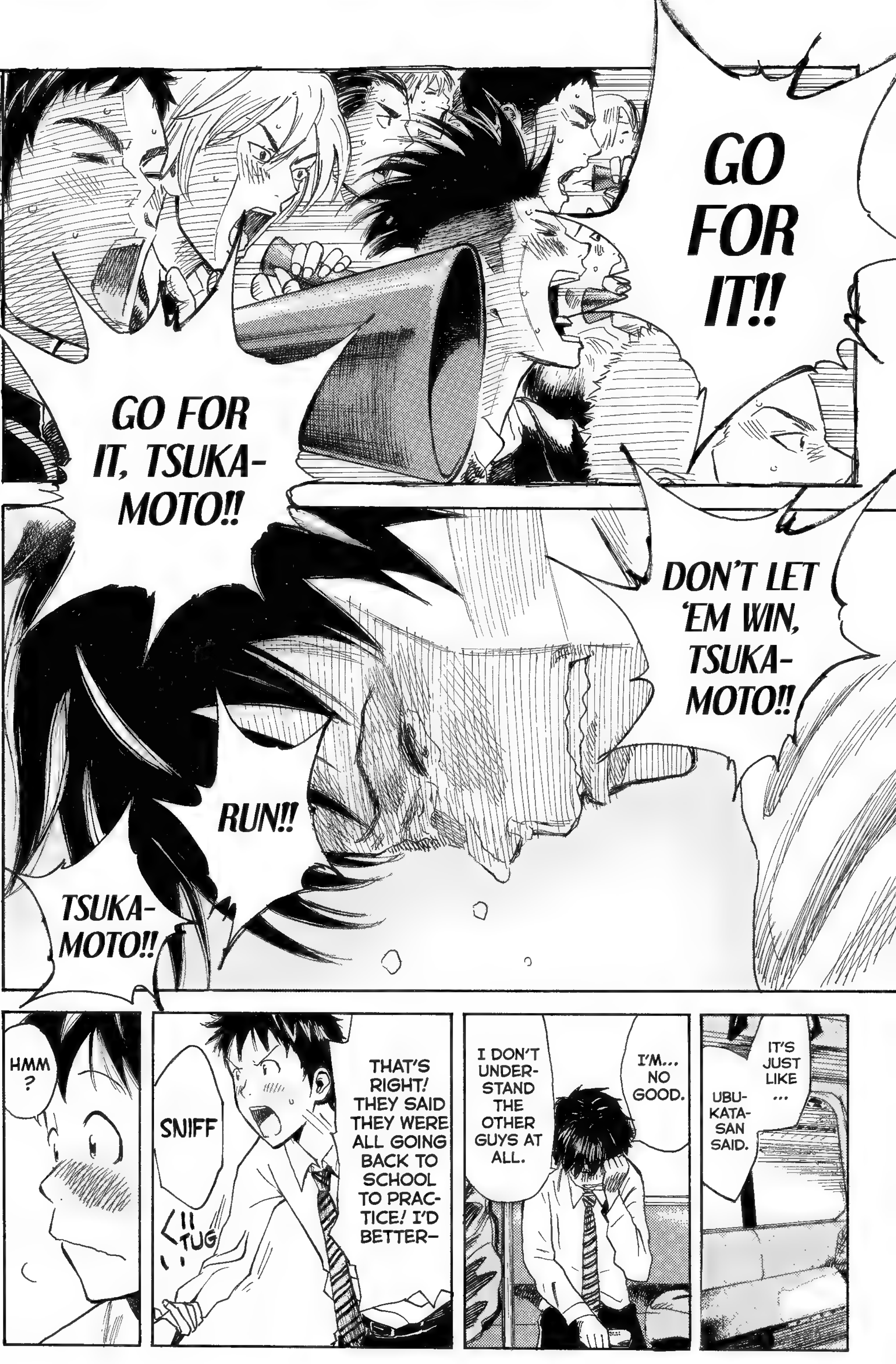

IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ME...
GIVE IT...
...A REST,
YOU MORON!!!
IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN YOU?!
CAN IT AND LISTEN FOR ONCE!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
I'M NEW TO ALL THIS STUFF, SO I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS...
MURMUR

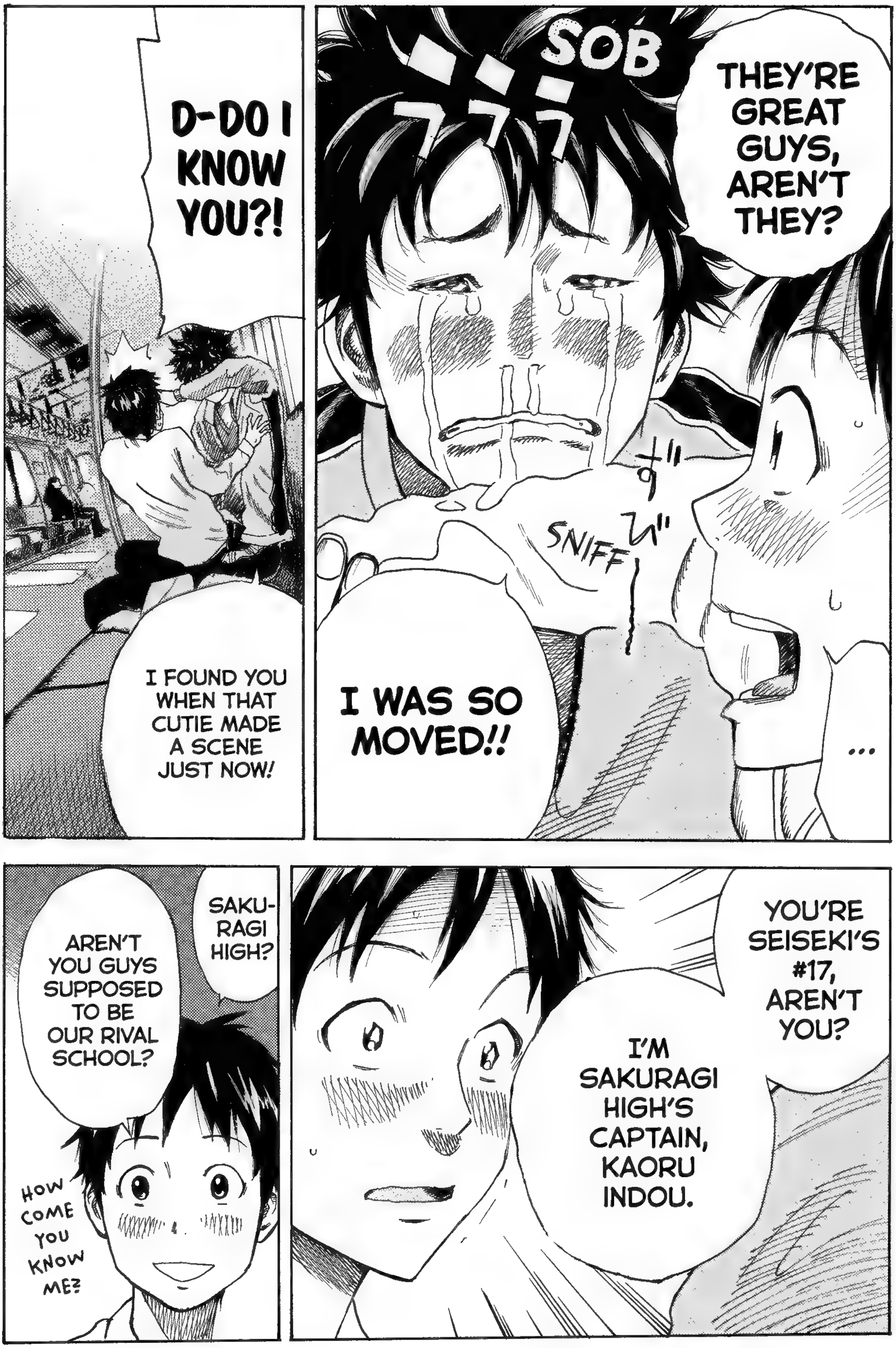

...BUT THERE WERE A WHOLE LOT OF GUYS WHO DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THE BENCH...
...AND CHEERED YOU ON FROM THE STANDS!!
IT'S *YOUR* JOB TO REPRESENT THEM!!
EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE NO GOOD!
BUT YOU MADE THE TEAM ANYWAY. YOU WERE OUT THERE ON THE FIELD!
ONLY ONCE YOU'VE COLLAPSED FROM EXHAUSTION, ONLY ONCE YOU'VE COUGHED UP BLOOD, ONLY *THEN* CAN YOU COMPLAIN!!
PUSH YOURSELF TO THE BITTER END, UNTIL YOU FEEL AS IF YOU COULD DIE!!
HAVEN'T YOU READ *MOEYO KEN*?!

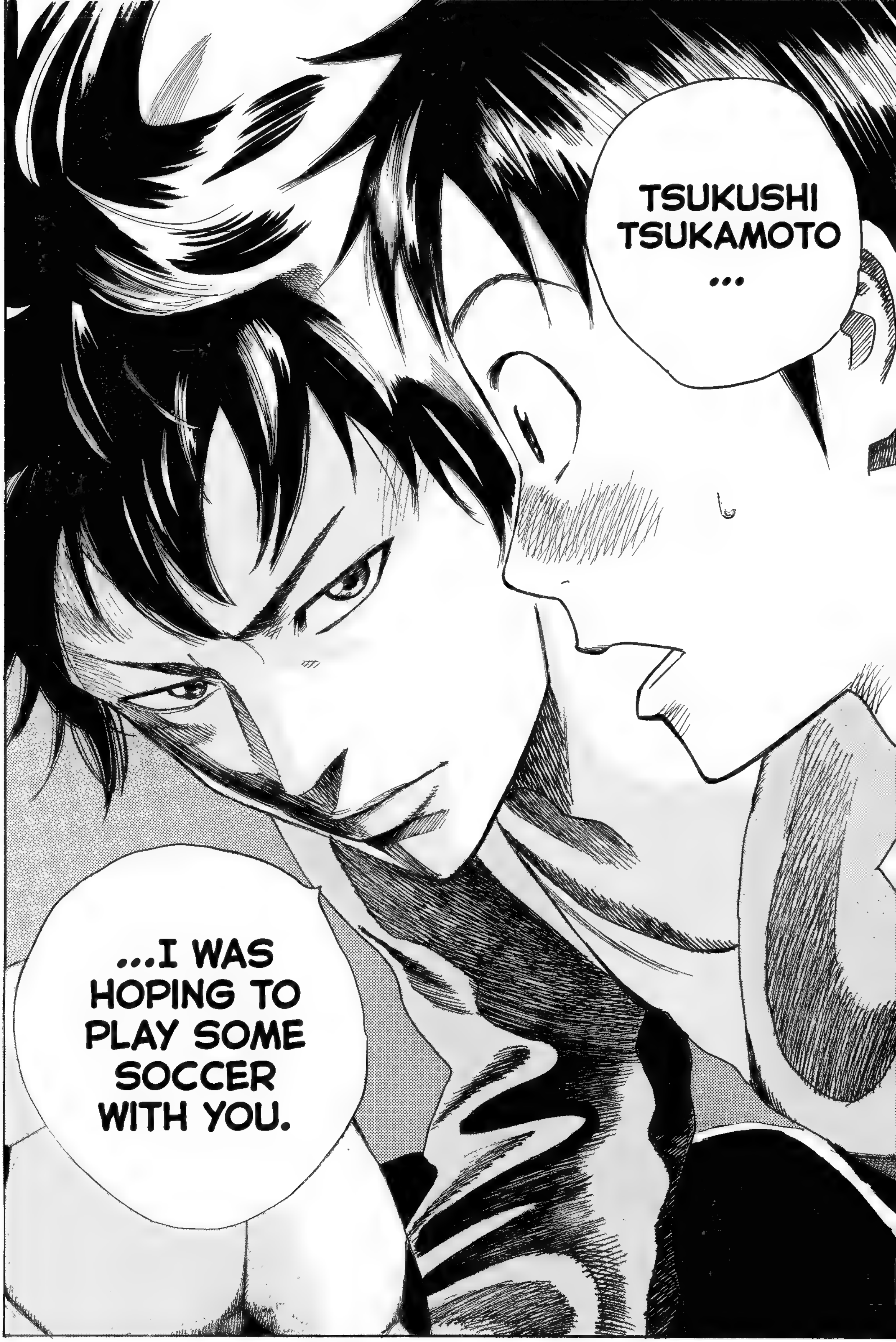

GASP
SHFF SHFF
...
HERE'S THE VIDEO KURUSU AND THE OTHERS TOOK OF THE GAME!!
WATCH IT AND THINK HARD ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!!
NEXT STOP, SEISEKI...
FOR GOD'S SAKE.
IF THEY COULD HEAR YOU NOW, THEY'D BE DISGUSTED.
UBUKATA-SAN...
CA-CLACK
CLUNK
I'M SCARED TO LOOK, BUT I GUESS I'D BETTER...
UGH...


THEY'RE PUTTING TSUKAMOTO OUT NOW?!
GASP
ARE THEY SURE ABOUT THIS?!
A-ACK!
WHY HIM?!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? TSUKAMOTO CAN'T HANDLE THIS!!
HD
YOU CAN'T COUNT ON HIM FOR ANYTHING!!
S-SORRY! I'LL TURN IT OFF RIGHT NOW!
FIVE
H...HOW DO I WORK THIS THING?!
TSUKAMOTO, YOU IDIOT!
NO.
HE'S NOT BAD.
THAT'S KASAHARA-SEMPAI'S VOICE!
TSUKAMOTO'S GOOD.


THAT KID CAN RUN.
HEY!
CHEER HIM ON, GUYS!!
SINCE TSUKAMOTO GOT ON THE FIELD. . .
. . .THE TEAM'S MOOD HAS TURNED COMPLETELY AROUND.
DID YOU SEE THAT RUN?!
GUYS...
THAT'S JUST LIKE TSUKAMOTO!
AHH! A PENALTY KICK!!
Tsukamoto, you idiot!
NO! YOU DID GREAT RUNNING ALL THE WAY BACK, TSUKAMOTO!
TWO MINUTES TO GO! KEEP RUNNING, TSUKAMOTO!!

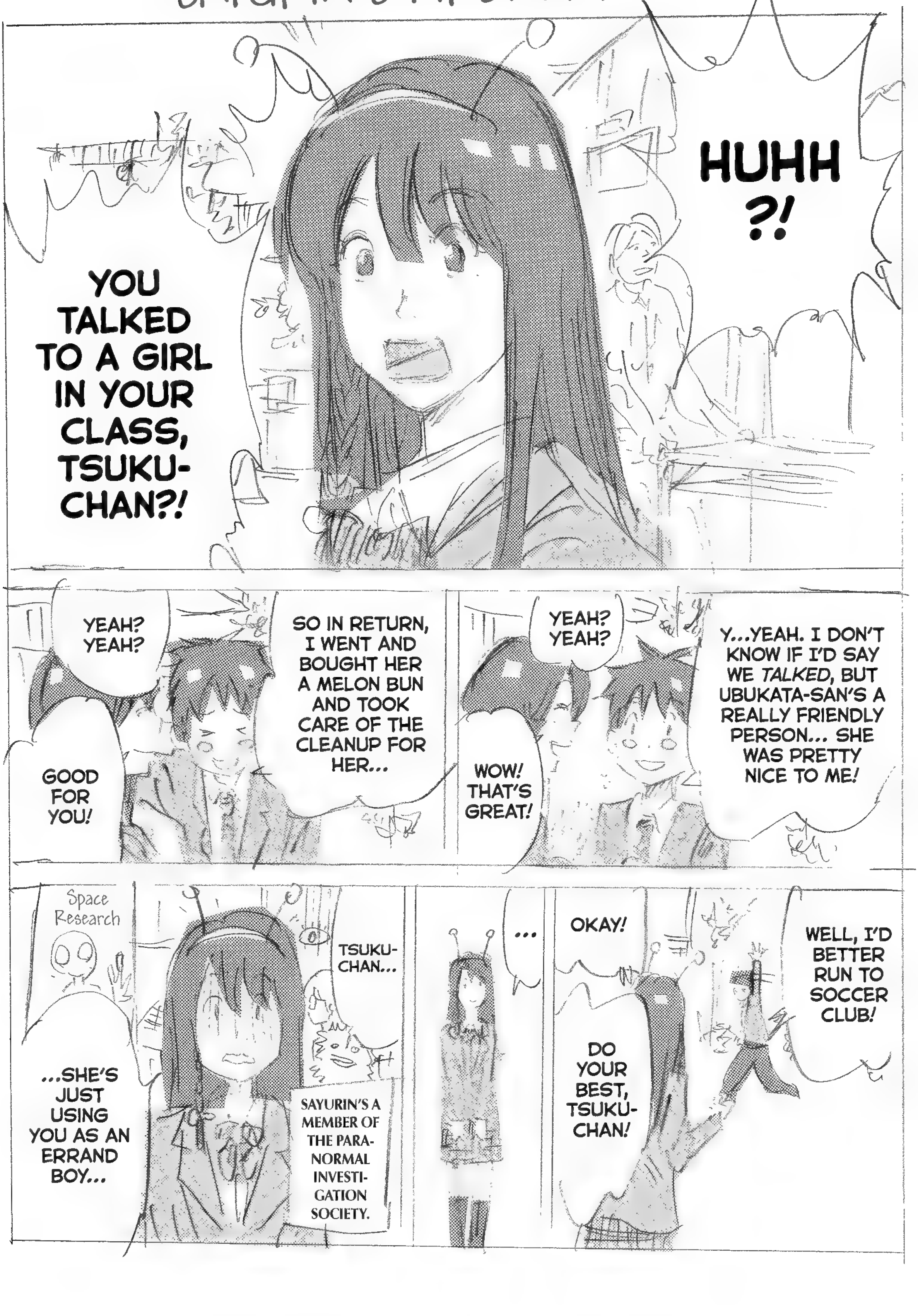

GO FOR IT!!
GO FOR IT, TSUKAMOTO!!
DON'T LET 'EM WIN, TSUKAMOTO!!
RUN!!
TSUKAMOTO!!
IT'S JUST LIKE...
UBUKATA-SAN SAID.
I'M... NO GOOD.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE OTHER GUYS AT ALL.
THAT'S RIGHT! THEY SAID THEY WERE ALL GOING BACK TO SCHOOL TO PRACTICE! I'D BETTER–
SNIFF
TUG
HMM?


SOB
THEY'RE GREAT GUYS, AREN'T THEY?
SNIFF
I WAS SO MOVED!!
...
D-DO I KNOW YOU?!
I FOUND YOU WHEN THAT CUTIE MADE A SCENE JUST NOW!
YOU'RE SEISEKI'S #17, AREN'T YOU?
I'M SAKURAGI HIGH'S CAPTAIN, KAORU INDOU.
SAKURAGI HIGH?
AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR RIVAL SCHOOL?
HOW COME YOU KNOW ME?

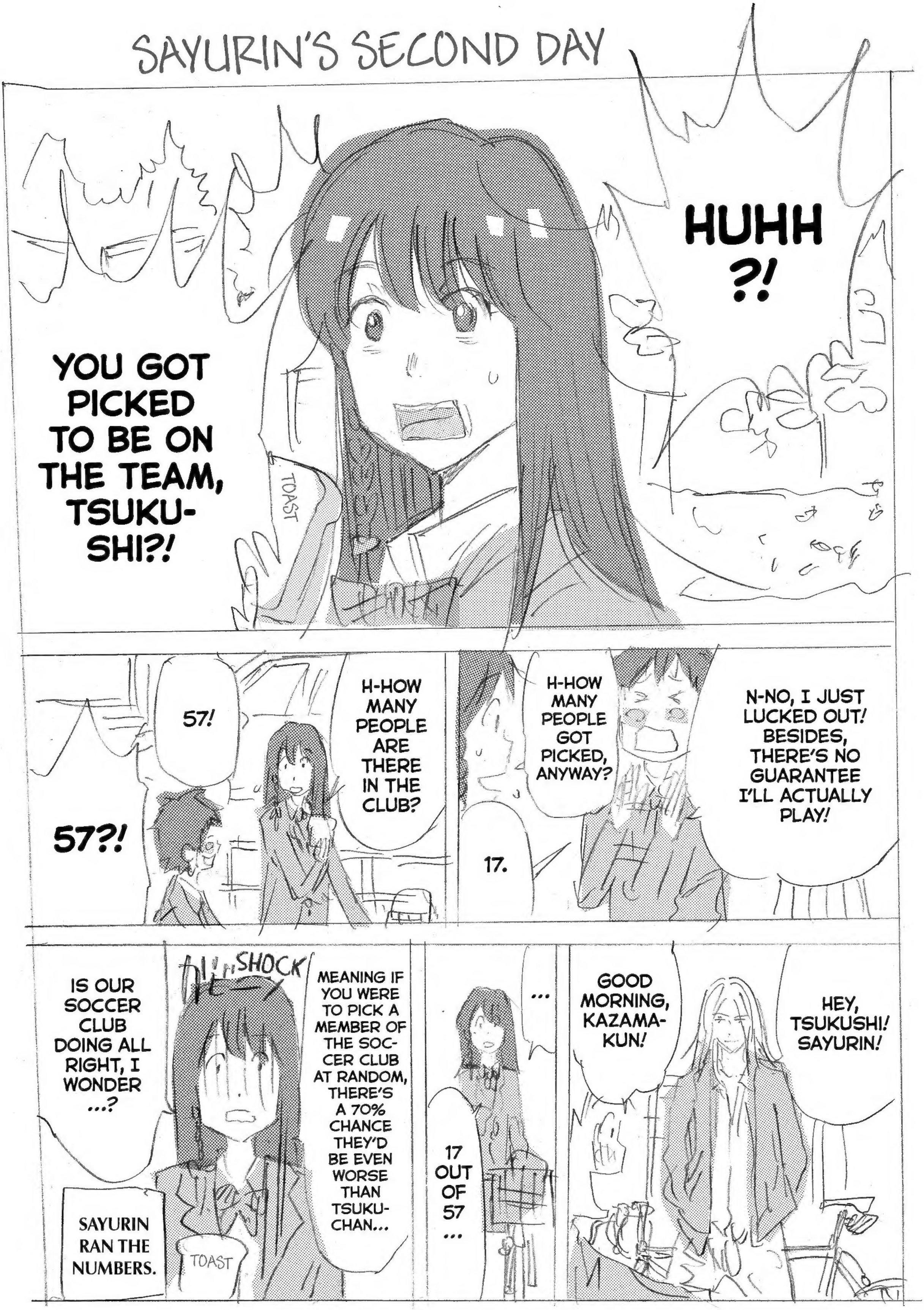

TSUKUSHI TSUKAMOTO ...
...I WAS HOPING TO PLAY SOME SOCCER WITH YOU.

Continued in Volume 3

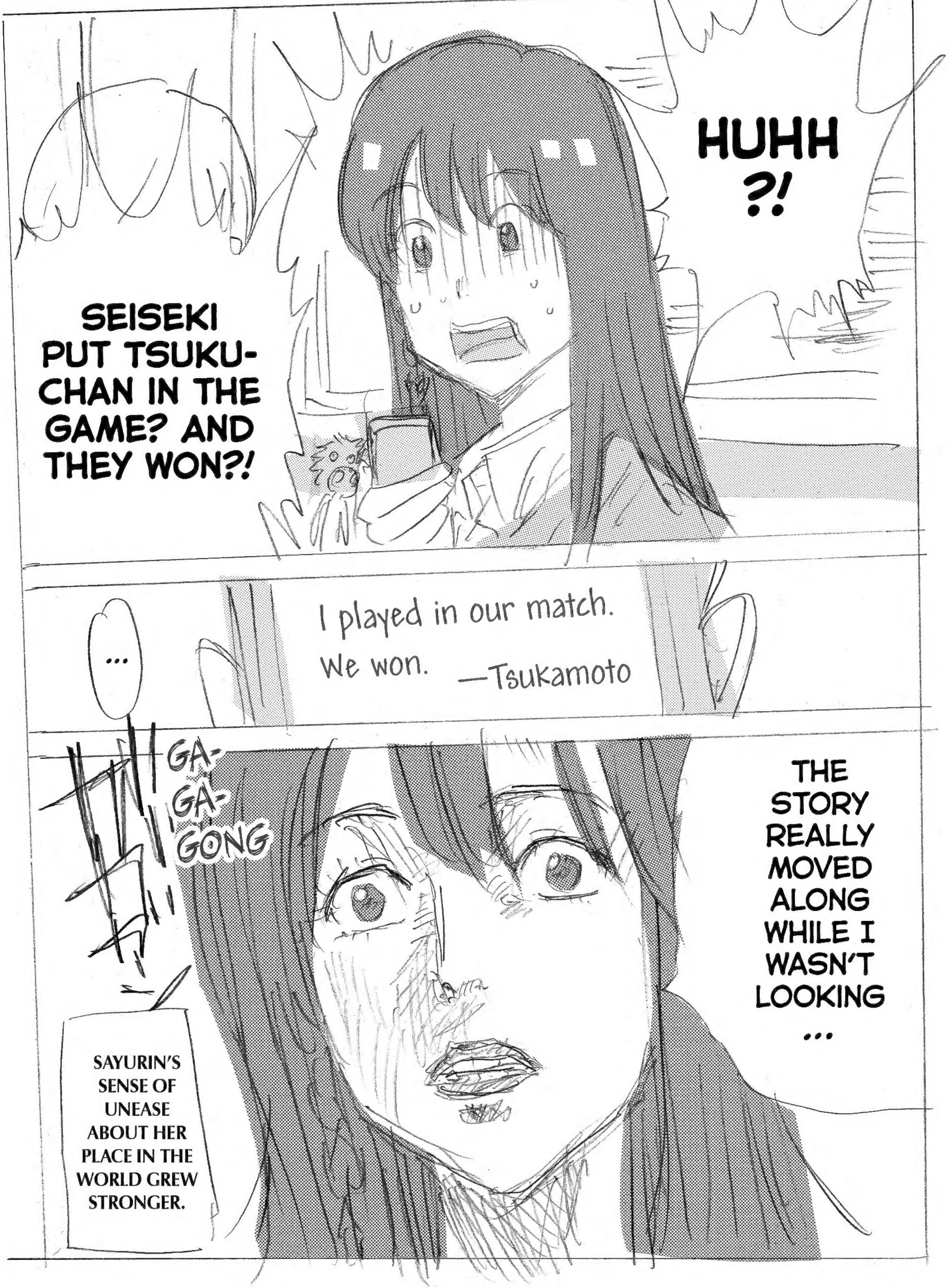
SAYURIN'S FIRST DAY


HUHH ?!
YOU TALKED TO A GIRL IN YOUR CLASS, TSUKU-CHAN?!
Y…YEAH. I DON'T KNOW IF I'D SAY WE *TALKED*, BUT UBUKATA-SAN'S A REALLY FRIENDLY PERSON… SHE WAS PRETTY NICE TO ME!
YEAH? YEAH?
WOW! THAT'S GREAT!
SO IN RETURN, I WENT AND BOUGHT HER A MELON BUN AND TOOK CARE OF THE CLEANUP FOR HER…
YEAH? YEAH?
GOOD FOR YOU!
WELL, I'D BETTER RUN TO SOCCER CLUB!
OKAY!
DO YOUR BEST, TSUKU-CHAN!
…
TSUKU-CHAN…
…SHE'S JUST USING YOU AS AN ERRAND BOY…
SAYURIN'S A MEMBER OF THE PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION SOCIETY.
Space Research

SAYURIN'S SECOND DAY


HUHH ?!
YOU GOT PICKED TO BE ON THE TEAM, TSUKUSHI?!
TOAST
N-NO, I JUST LUCKED OUT! BESIDES, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE I'LL ACTUALLY PLAY!
H-HOW MANY PEOPLE GOT PICKED, ANYWAY?
17.
H-HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN THE CLUB?
57!
57?!
HEY, TSUKUSHI! SAYURIN!
GOOD MORNING, KAZAMA-KUN!
...
17 OUT OF 57 ...
MEANING IF YOU WERE TO PICK A MEMBER OF THE SOCCER CLUB AT RANDOM, THERE'S A 70% CHANCE THEY'D BE EVEN WORSE THAN TSUKU-CHAN...
SHOCK
IS OUR SOCCER CLUB DOING ALL RIGHT, I WONDER ...?
SAYURIN RAN THE NUMBERS.
TOAST

SAYURIN'S THIRD DAY


HUHH ?!
SEISEKI PUT TSUKU-CHAN IN THE GAME? AND THEY WON?!
I played in our match. We won. —Tsukamoto
...
THE STORY REALLY MOVED ALONG WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING ...
GA-GA-GONG
SAYURIN'S SENSE OF UNEASE ABOUT HER PLACE IN THE WORLD GREW STRONGER.

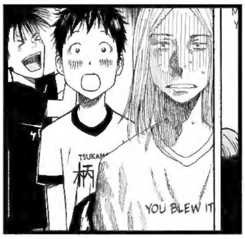
Translation Notes

THAT'S
WHAT IT

CHIKAKO UBUKATA'S LITERARY PROWESS

In volume 2, we meet Chikako Ubukata, Tsukushi's aloof, intimidating classmate we later learn that she is a lot more intelligent than she seems. Jin mentions that she's at the top of the class, so it's likely that she is talented across the board, but her specialty seems to be literature. She gives Tsukushi two impromptu, astringent pep talks in this volume, both of which end with a rather forceful literary recommendation; she urges Tsukushi to read *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Moeyo Ken*.

Looking into these books shows just how sophisticated Chikako's taste in literature really is. *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is a classic Chinese novel written by Luo Guanzhong in the 14th century about the twilight of the Han dynasty, and *Moeyo Ken* ("Burn, O Sword") is a novel written in the 1960s by Ryotaro Shiba about Toshizo Hijikata, a member of the Shinsengumi — a special police force from the Bakumatsu period that holds an almost legendary place in Japanese culture and writing. If these don't sound like typical books for a 16-year-old girl to be reading in her spare time, that's because they aren't; the closest analogue in Western culture might be something along the lines of *The Iliad*.



"YOU BLEW IT," PAGE 122

The writing on Jin's shirt, which changes from panel to panel to broadcast his thoughts to the outside world, tends to be pithy and witty in ways that can be tricky to capture in English. In this particular case, the original text simply read "balse," a reference to an incantation spoken in the Studio Ghibli classic *Castle in the Sky*. In recent years, this incantation has gained memetic traction among Japanese otaku; during the annual TV screenings of *Castle in the Sky*, many Japanese Twitter users throw a "balse festival," which simply consists of tweeting the phrase as the film reaches its denouement; it may not sound like much, but this results in excess of 100,000 tweets per second, serving, for better or worse, as an annual stress test for the service.

We'd rather not tell you precisely what balse means, since it would spoil a particularly dramatic moment in Castle in the Sky, but it shouldn't be giving too much away to explain that, outside of the annual festival, balse tends to be invoked as a meme when you've made a giant mistake, or when things seem to be going up in flames.

DAYS 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682336960

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

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YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.